Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-90-074 *17 April 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Leaders Assail Anti-Iraqi 'Threats' *[APS]* 1
Arab League Delegation on Anti-Iraq 'Campaign' *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Tariq 'Aziz on Arab Summit, Western 'Campaign' *[INA]* 1
Polyakov, Klibi Discuss Soviet Jewish Emigration *[KUNA]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Council of Government Statement on Law, Order *[Algiers TV]* 3
FLN Calls for Public Marches on 20 Apr *[Algiers Radio]* 3

Egypt

Mubarak Proposal on Weapons Sent to UN *[MENA]* 3
Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives, To Meet 'Arafat *[MENA]* 4
Envoy Kamal on PLO Efforts on Jerusalem Status *[MENA]* 4

Morocco

Labor Group Calls, Postpones General Strike *[MAP]* 4

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Addresses Visiting U.S. Senators *[Baghdad Radio]* 5

ISRAEL

Likud Elements 'Pressing' for Increased Settlement *[HA'ARETZ 17 Apr]* 14
Likud 'Problems' Postpone Arens' Bulgaria Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
IDF Spokesman Launches New Information Sheet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Curfew on Strip for Khalil al-Wazir Anniversary *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Update on 15, 16 Apr Incidents in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 17 Apr]* 14

JORDAN

King Husayn on Emigration, Senate Resolution *[Amman TV]* 16
Editorial on 'Political Courage' of U.S.'s Dole *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Apr]* 17
Paper Praises Senator Dole's Statements in Israel *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Apr]* 18
'Arafat Arrives, Makes Statement on Talks *[Amman Radio]* 18
Paper Tells of Expected Israeli 'Aggression' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Apr]* 18

LEBANON

Pro-'Awn Radio Cites QNA on Hostages' Release *[The Lebanese Radio]* 20
Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Meets Al-Husayni, Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 20
Leaves for Jeddah 17 Apr *[Beirut Radio]* 20

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Killing Official *[Beirut Radio]* 20
Iranian Chancellery Denies Link *[VOM]* 20
Hizballah Denies Responsiblity *[Voice of National Resistance]* 20
Syrian Defense Minister To Inspect Troops *[VOM]* 20
'Awn, LF Groups Exchange Artillery Fire *[Beirut Radio]* 21
'Awn Forces Continue To Shell LF Positions *[RFL]* 21
'Awn, Ja'ja' Said Preparing for 'Decisive Battle' *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Amal-Hizballah Fighting Resumes 17 Apr *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Further on Fighting *[VOL]* 21
Amal Movement, Al-Huss Comment *[Beirut Radio]* 21
2 Reported Killed, 15 Injured *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Cease-Fire Reached *[VOM]* 22
9 Killed in W. Beirut Fighting *[Voice of the People]* 22
SLA Dismisses Veterans To 'Rejuvenate' Ranks *['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Apr]* 22
Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Al-Na'imah, Al-Damur *[RFL]* 22

SYRIA

Speech Rally Marks Evacuation Anniversary *[Damascus TV]* 23
Foreign Minister Meets Visiting U.S. Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 23
Commentary Advises U.S. Reconsider Aid to Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 24

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Start Talks With Moscow *[Karachi DAWN 16 Apr]* 25
Hekmatyar Denies Aid for Kashmir Separatists *[AFP]* 25
Hekmatyar Proposes Elections To Break 'Deadlock' *[AFP]* 25
Removal of 'Essential Goods' From Kabul Banned *[BAKHTAR]* 26
Najibullah Chairs Supreme Defense Council Session *[Kabul Radio]* 26
Finance Minister, Delegation Depart for Moscow *[BAKHTAR]* 26
Foreign Minister Leaves for New York Meetings *[BAKHTAR]* 26
'Extremists' Clash in Baghlan, Takhar Provinces *[BAKHTAR]* 26
Mujahidin Beat Back Attack North of Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 27
Mujahidin Down Military Helicopter, Jet Fighter *[Islamabad Radio]* 27
Paghman 'Mopping Up Operation' Reported *[BAKHTAR]* 27
Kabul Turns Back Three-Day Mujahidin Offensive *[AFP]* 27
10,600 Afghans Disabled in War Against Regime *[Islamabad Radio]* 27
'Pakistani-Backed Extremists' Attack Khowst *[BAKHTAR]* 28
Sources Report Ghowr Governor's Surrender *[Lahore THE NATION 17 Apr]* 28
Rival Mujahidin Groups Clash; 'Dozens Dead' *[AFP]* 28

India

Authorities Seal Two Kashmiri Newspaper Presses *[AFP]* 29
Kashmir Political Organizations Banned 16 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 29
'Multilevel Strategy' Created To Check Subversion *[Delhi Radio]* 29
Protests in Kashmir Against Ban Turn Violent *[AFP]* 29
Singh Addresses Army Commanders, Urges Vigilance *[Delhi TV]* 30
More on Address to Army Commanders *[Delhi Radio]* 30
LTTE Announces Offer of Aid to Sikh Extremists *[DINAMALAR 31 Mar]* 30
Two Separate Bombings Reported in Poona 14 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 31
'Major Fire' at High Security Government Building *[Delhi Radio]* 31

Iran

Karrubi Urges Muslim Support for Palestine *[IRNA]* 31
Karrubi Calls for Expanded Ties With Libya *[Tehran Radio]* 31
Karrubi Addresses Religious Ceremony *[Tehran Radio]* 32
Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Army Personnel *[Tehran Radio]* 32

Karrubi, Yazdi Discuss 'Economic Saboteurs' *[Tehran Radio]* 32
'Decisive Approach to Economic Terrorism' Urged *[7 Apr]* 33
Saudi Policy Toward Iranian Pilgrims Criticized *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers 13 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 33
AFP Reports Arrest of 'Hooligans' in Tehran 34
Editorial Questions Need for Ties With U.S. *[ABRAR 8 Apr]* 34
'Uproar' Over Trigger Devices for Iraq Viewed *[RESALAT 5 Apr]* 35
Commentary Criticizes U.S.-Iraq Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 35
KEYHAN Views Iraqi-U.S.-Israeli Moves *[IRNA]* 36
Paper on Likelihood of Iraqi-Israeli Confrontation *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 7 Apr]* 37
Editorial Calls for Elimination of All Weapons *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Apr]* 38
Trade With Soviet Union Registers Increase *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Further on Trade to USSR *[Tehran TV]* 39
Joint Markets To Be Set Up on Soviet Border *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Paper Views Implications of Soviet Jews' Transfer *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Apr]* 39
Reconstruction Money Sought for Khuzestan *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Plan for Eradication of Illiteracy Praised *[7 Apr]* 40
Army Day Parade To Be Rescheduled *[IRNA]* 40

Nepal

Prime Minister Designate Spells Out Priorities *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Says Laws To Be Revised *[AFP]* 41

Pakistan

Paper Alleges U.S. Food 'Smuggled' to Kabul *[THE NATION 16 Apr]* 41
Punjab Chief Minister Escapes Murder Attempt *[AFP]* 41
Spokesman Denies Plane Violated Indian Airspace *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Mob Attacks Kashmir Affairs Minister in Chilas *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Minister Rules Out Intervention in Sind Province *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Sind Opposition Leader Ends Hunger Strike 42
Governor To Meet Demands *[AFP]* 42
Further on End of Fast *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Settlement Pleases President *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Bhutto Makes Minor Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia *[Islamabad International]* 43
Large Narcotics Seizure in Sind Reported *[THE MUSLIM 16 Apr]* 43

Sri Lanka

Justice Minister, LTTE Leader Hold Talks *[Colombo International]* 43

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Leaders Assail Anti-Iraqi 'Threats'

LD1504121490 Algiers APS in English 1001 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 15 Apr (APS)—Threats against Iraq "are the presage of a new aggression against the Arab nation and need a consulted and efficient riposte at the Arab scale," Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, declared during the program "El-Hadeth" (the event) of the Algerian television. During this program which gathered in triplex from Algiers, Tunis and Bagdad, Algerian and Iraqi foreign ministers, Sid Ahmed Ghazali and Tariq 'Aziz and the Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, the Iraqi foreign minister said that "the affair of nuclear (?detonators)" which Iraq was accused of wanting to possess is but a "plot created by American and British secret services" in order to justify a possible Israel aggression."

The message is now clear, 'Aziz said, "through Iraq, it is all Arab countries which are aimed and is their security which is threatened. This shows the importance of the necessity of an appropriate Arab action which is up to the challenge we are facing." Israel and its protectors from Western countries "do not want to see Arab countries possess technological means likely to assure them development and security," the Iraqi foreign minister said. Thus, we repeat, he added, that in case of Israeli nuclear aggression, Iraq is able to riposte by its strike force which is "equivalent in destructive capacities to Israeli (nuclear) arms." However, he considered that a firm position and measures should be taken "at the level of Arab leaders."

In this context, Tariq 'Aziz said that "though we have not officially asked for it, we propose the holding of an Arab extraordinary summit."

The Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, who termed Israel's threats as "political terrorism" and recalled "the indisputable right (of Iraq) to defense," assured Iraq of an active Arab support in case of aggression.

For the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the threats against Iraq are aimed at "intimidating Arabs, dividing them and depriving them from any means of defense." Thus, we must oppose to this situation a common front to counter, Ghazali said, the aims of Zionists who are working in light of the changes that took place in the world, mainly Eastern Europe, for the constitution of a Judeo-Christian axis directed against the Arab Muslim civilization.

Arab League Delegation on Anti-Iraq 'Campaign'

LD1504093390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The malicious information and political campaign against sister state Iraq which has been going on for a while in the West—mainly in the United States, Great Britain, and Israel—was yesterday the subject of a statement issued in London by the Arab League delegation to Great Britain. The statement vehemently condemned this campaign, which has escalated with the issue of tubes. The Arab League delegation described as caricatural the British customs allegation that the tubes imported by Iraq and seized in Great Britain are a big cannon. It pointed out that this campaign started when the British spy [Bazoft] failed to set public opinion against Iraq. Consequently, the circles behind all this could not but invent the story of a long tube that can be transformed into a very long cannon which poses a threat to peace and security, not in Israel alone, but in the Middle east and the whole world.

The Arab delegation wondered in its statement about the aim behind this campaign against Iraq, in particular, and the Arabs in general. It pointed out the similarity between this campaign and the atmosphere of 1956, and the information campaign which preceded the aggression against Egypt.

All Arabs line up today beside Iraq. They have expressed this during the recent meeting of the Council of the Arab League in Tunis. They will not submit to the Israeli terrorist will, as they are impudently asked to.

Tariq 'Aziz on Arab Summit, Western 'Campaign'

JN1404151090 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, Apr 14, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, confirmed the necessity of holding an Arab summit conference to counter threats besetting the pan-Arab security.

In a direct statement via satellites with al-Hadeth programme, presented by the Algerian TV, with the participation of Mr. Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, and Mr. Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister, Mr. 'Aziz said that the necessity demands an Arab meeting at the summit level and should be open during which the Arab leaders discuss and agree on the plans and measures necessary for preserving the nation and each country within the frame of pan-Arab security.

Mr. 'Aziz added that Iraq did not extend what is called the official invitation for convening an Arab summit but in the Arab League Council held recently in Tunisia, we agreed on the necessity of holding the summit because we believe that this stage and threats facing us are at a level demanding an urgent solution adopted by the Arab leaders because they are alone capable of determining the requirements necessary for confronting the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine and the Israeli threats against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Mr. 'Aziz stressed that there were political, financial and might be military prerequisites that a decision should be taken in this respect by the Arab leaders, thus we see that call for holding an Arab summit is a logical and necessary matter.

Mr. 'Aziz said that Iraq is capable of severely retaliating [against] Israel if it tries to attack it, but the question facing the Arab nation now is the pan-Arab security threats in the current stage which necessitates serious and practical solutions.

Mr. 'Aziz referred to the media campaign being launched by the Western and Zionist circles against Iraq, saying that the West invents charges when we realize a scientific achievement, regretting that several formal and media Western circles take part in this iniquitous campaign hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation.

Mr. 'Aziz made it clear that we confirmed during the Euro-Arab dialogue conference held recently our desire to be friends and dealing in a civilizational manner on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocity but we did not accept as being convicted because we seek for possessing the arms that enable us defending our country and the nation. [sentence as received]

Mr. 'Aziz described the propaganda fuss fabricated by Britain and the United States on the electric capacitors which were imported by Iraq as a trumped-up conspiracy against Iraq designed since a long time to accuse Iraq that it tries to steal or purchase materials illegally from the American market to be used in manufacturing the nuclear bomb.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi called during the programme on the Arab countries to work out an overall plan for defending their national security and consolidating the solidarity in the face of challenges threatening Iraq.

Mr. Klibi added that at a time Iraq had proved to the whole world its commitment to peace, it will never stand with folded arms when it is exposed to an aggression and its right to self-defence could never be a controversial matter.

Mr. Klibi clarified that the Arab League had informed the Western states and the Security Council's five permanent member states the gravity of threats faced by Iraq.

In this respect, Algerian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Ghazali denounced the media campaigns hostile to Iraq saying that Israel seeks behind these campaigns for hitting the Arab nation and its achievements.

Mr. Ghazali stressed that the current situation necessitates a unified arab stand to counter the grave challenges besetting the Arab nation and its security and stability.

Mr. Ghazali added that these threats were aiming at tarnishing the Arab nation's image and to prevent it acquiring all reasons of strength to be weak and incapable of confronting its enemies. [sentence as received]

Polyakov, Klibi Discuss Soviet Jewish Emigration

LD1604220490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1520 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, April 16 (KUNA)—Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Polyakov Monday told Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi Moscow was intensifying contacts with the Arab world for activating the Middle East peace process.

The Soviet official told reporters after the meeting with the League's chief executive that he stressed to Klibi the Kremlin's belief that the peace process must cater to the interests of all parties concerned and to international law.

He termed his talks with Klibi as "constructive and positive" and said they also discussed a postponed visit to Moscow by an Arab League delegation which was to highlight the perils of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. Polyakov added that he outlined to Klibi the Kremlin's position on a number of Middle East political developments.

The Soviet Union drew bitter criticism from Arab countries including its closest friends in the region which it opened the floodgates for its Jews to migrate to Israel a few months ago.

Algeria

Council of Government Statement on Law, Order

LD1604214890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] I have just received a statement issued by the Council of Government. The Council of Government today issued the following statement:

This Council of Government has taken note of the following successive statements: the statement of the National Secretariat of the General Union of Algerian Workers issued on 10 April in which the Secretariat supports the principle of the general strike against the action of the government in the social field and against the implementation of a law endorsed by the national People's Assembly [not further specified]; and the statement attributed to the Islamic Salvation Front which was published by the press on 15 and 16 April and which calls for a march in the capital with a view to imposing its slogans. These statements on violence, intolerance, and the government's laxity suggest self-defense and civil war. The government believes that these initiatives are inconsistent with the democratic and constitutional rules and practices of expression, debate, and struggle allowed today by the law. They also represent serious deviations that threaten the social stability and the prevailing democracy. These practices undermine the rights of the citizens, their freedoms, and the guarantees of their democratic expression. Such pressures are unacceptable, especially as they come from quarters that have officially and publicly committed themselves to respect the process of constitutional democracy.

In order to confront the adventures that are secretly planned and to face up to the attacks on individual and collective freedoms that have been noticed to occur repeatedly these days, the government urges all the citizens and the associations of a social, cultural, trade-unionist, and political nature to remain totally vigilant at a time when the thoughtless actions might develop into a threat that will undermine the program of political reforms and halt the process of economic purge which is underway in all fields. At a time when public opinion is mobilizing itself to face up to the main problems in the country, it must also notice the emergence of undeclared alliances between speculation, the black market, and political adventurism. For elector purposes, appeals are made daily calling for demagogic action, thoughtless claims, and the use of the language of provocation and vilification. In the face of these developments, the government is determined to use all the means made available to it by the law at the level of the management of public affairs and the protection of public order and to be in direct communications with the citizens in order to protect their freedoms, protect innocent citizens, and to foil all the plots and the adventures.

This was the statement issued by the Council of Government.

FLN Calls for Public Marches on 20 Apr

LD1704005390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau this evening issued a statement which says the following:

Out of its eagerness to strengthen the march of democracy and its safety and provide the necessary conditions for the practice of freedom of choice in the forthcoming provincial and municipal elections, and in view of the (?calls) for using the mosques for narrow party and election aims, the FLN calls on all citizens—men and women—to organize public marches throughout the national territory on Friday, 20 April, in order to call for keeping party and election activity away from the houses of God.

Egypt

Mubarak Proposal on Weapons Sent to UN

NC1704050490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The United Nations, 16 Apr (MENA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today received a message from Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The message was handed to him by Ambassador 'Amr Musa, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Following his meeting with the UN secretary general, the Egyptian representative stated that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's message contains President Husni Mubarak's proposal to regard the Middle East as an area free of mass destruction weapons. He said that an important discussion took place about President Mubarak's proposal, the seriousness of the situation in the region, the need to speed up the peace process, and the threat posed by the deployment of mass destruction weapons, especially nuclear weapons.

Ambassador Musa noted that President Mubarak—as the deputy prime minister and foreign minister indicated in his message to the UN secretary general—announced on 8 April, Egypt's total support for the idea of making the Middle East an area free of all types of mass destruction weapons. President Mubarak stressed the need to ban without exception nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in the Middle East. He also stressed the need for mutual and balanced commitments in this regard and the need for inspection measures to determine that all the countries in the region are abiding by this ban.

Ambassador Musa said that Egypt emphasized through the deputy prime minister and foreign minister its intention to continue its efforts with the Middle East and other countries to declare the area free of all mass

destruction weapons and to establish the necessary international inspection procedures which can be applied to the countries in the area on balanced basis.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives, To Meet 'Arafat

NC1604181590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1723 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit which will last a few days. Andersson was invited by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, with whom he will hold talks on a number of important issues.

Andersson said in an arrival statement that he will meet with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who is expected to arrive in Cairo at any moment. Andersson affirmed that his country is exerting considerable effort to develop the dialogue between the United States and the PLO and to ensure its continuity. It is also trying to facilitate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. He expressed the belief that there are good prospects for starting such a dialogue.

The Swedish foreign minister added that he will travel to Tunisia after his visit to Egypt as part of his current Arab tour.

The Swedish foreign minister was welcomed on arrival by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Envoy Kamal on PLO Efforts on Jerusalem Status

NC1704105990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1017 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador in Cairo, has disclosed that the PLO is currently engaged in intensive diplomatic activity regarding the status of Arab Jerusalem. He noted that Muslim and Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem are being subjected to oppressive Israeli measures, which have extended to Islamic and Christian religious places.

He said he will meet with al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq tomorrow and with his holiness Pope Shanudah III, patriarch of the Orthodox Copts after tomorrow, Thursday, to give them messages from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat on this issue.

He pointed out that the two messages also deal with the arrangements for holding an international Islamic-Christian conference on Jerusalem, in light of the agreement between president 'Arafat and Pope Paul II when they met in the Vatican early this month.

He said the Palestinian president has also sent messages to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization and to a number of Islamic and Christian leaderships in various countries.

Morocco

Labor Group Calls, Postpones General Strike

LD1604173390 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Rabat, April 16 (MAP)—Moroccan trade union, the 'Democatic Labour Confederation' (CDT) has decided to postpone the general strike it had called for this April 19. In a communique published Monday by local opposition daily "AL-ITIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI", CDT's Executive Bureau said it made the decision after it "registered the government's stance on the principle of dialogue" on the claims to be satisfied, and its commitment to continue dialogue on other issues" according to an agreed-upon "calendar". It said this understanding was reached during a series of meetings, April 13, 14 and 15, between a CDT delegation and a ministerial one (administrtive affairs, economic affairs and denationalization, and employment).

The communique said the meeting addressed all problems facing the (?country's) working class and (?contained in) CDT's memorandum of last week. The communique said both sides pledged to 'resort to dialogue as means to settle all social conflicts, at all levels and in all sectors".

A calendar for meetings between the ministerial commission and CDT's Executive Bureau, beginning April 17, has been drawn up with a view to discussing all workers' problems in a number of sectors and establishments. Dialogue on the economic and social aspects of CDT's memorandum will resume on May 7.

The CDT communique said the government reiterated determination to see to the respect of law and trade union freedoms and pledges to (?comprehensively) [word indistinct] with the cases of those benefiting from royal pardon to regularize their administrative and financial situation. Concerning minimum wages, the communique said the government affirmed it is pondering the issue at present and will shortly announce its conclusions.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Visiting U.S. Senators

JN1604161390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Apr 90

["Full text" of President Saddam Husayn's remarks during a meeting with a delegation of U.S. senators led by Robert Dole in Mosul on 12 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The president: You are welcome.

Senator Dole: At 2300, we had a telephone conversation with the President; we each talked to him. President Bush was satisfied with our plans to visit Baghdad. Your Excellency the President: We would like to present a letter to you signed by the five of us. We have also provided the interpreter with a copy. We hope we will be able to talk with Your Excellency after the letter is read. It is a short letter.

The interpreter reads the letter: Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, Baghdad: Dear Mr. President, we appreciate your readiness to receive us in the blessed month of Ramadan on such short notice. Our delegation to Baghdad represents the two political parties in the United States because we believe Iraq is playing a major role in the Middle East. As we desire to improve relations between our two countries, it is clear to us we cannot resolve the existing serious differences between our two countries if we neglect these differences or fail to benefit from the opportunity to conduct clear and frank talks.

We therefore believe we have to tell you about our very deep concern over certain policies and activities by your government which represent a big obstacle to developed relations between our two countries.

Your country emerged recently from a lengthy and costly war, which caused concern about the security of your country. But we will not dwell on our belief your attempts to develop nuclear, chemical, and biological capabilities will expose your country to a serious danger instead of reinforcing that security. Moreover, these attempts will threaten other countries in the region and will cause serious trouble throughout the Middle East. Your recent statements, in which you threatened to use chemical weapons against Israel, have created deep concern in countries all over the world, and it is good for you and for peace in the Middle East to urge you to reconsider going ahead with these dangerous programs, statements, and provocative assertions. We also have to express our deep concern over the alleged activities that led to the expulsion of a member of your diplomatic mission at the United Nations on charges he was involved in murder. Therefore, we reiterate that if we want better relations for our countries, such activities as alleged should not recur.

Finally, we urge Your Excellency to actively and constructively contribute to the current peace process involving Egypt, Israel, and representatives of the Palestinian people and the U.S. Government. Your Excellency, we thank you again for receiving us, and we are looking forward to exchanging views and ideas today.

[Signed] Senator Robert Dole, Senator Simpson, Senator McClure, and Senator Metzenbaum

Delegation member: Your Excellency the President, the five of us who make up the delegation are prominent members of the U.S. Congress. If we add together the years of experience of the five of us in Congress, they will come to 75 years. Therefore, we have long experience.

We consider this visit very important. During his telephone conversation with us yesterday, President George Bush said we wanted to improve relations with your country and your government. As we stated in the letter, there are grave factors of concern. We also know you have your own concerns.

We were told by President Mubarak and King Husayn that we could hold a frank and open dialogue with you, that you are a clear and a frank man, and that you would explain your ideas. Therefore, as I told the foreign minister before we met you, we want to know what we can do to improve our relations. I briefed the foreign minister on two press reports, the first, by the NBC television network, concerning biological weapons. It is a lengthy report on your capabilities in the field of germ warfare. The second report appeared this morning and refers to some congressmen calling for sanctions against Iraq. Despite this [as heard], it is fair to say that in light of recent media reports, the talk about sanctions again will come up when the Congress resumes its sessions next week. Finally, I would like to borrow words from Senator Specter, whom you met and who went away with a very positive impression of you:

The president: Convey my greetings to him. My impression of him also was good, and he was fair.

Senator Dole: In fact, Senator Specter said that before anything else, we should talk with President Saddam Husayn. He urged the other congressmen to show self-restraint in this respect. I can add that before we planned our Middle East tour, Senator Specter came to me and urged that Iraq be among the countries covered in our tour. We, therefore, consider this meeting important. We did not come to you with preconceptions or certain impressions. If Your Excellency agrees, the other congressmen may want to add something, or you may want to speak.

The president: Yes, I will speak about this. I am pleased you said you came without preconceptions that might prevent us from interacting with the facts as they really are. This is suitable not only for us, but also for humanity at large. We believe in a wise maxim that says: No matter what your size and strength, you should assume you are smaller and weaker than your adversary, so as to know him. It is only through this that you can enter the minds and hearts of people as they really are, not as you

suppose or wish them to be. Against the backdrop of this wise maxim, I understand your statement that you came here without preconceptions.

In today's world, there are the big and the small, and we in reality know that the criterion is material capability. But we will not submit to this conception. We seek a criterion linked to the concepts of God Almighty, who is greater than anything else. So, those who believe in fair play are the big; those who touch the fact as it is, not as they wish it to be, are the big; those who achieve or help achieve peace—not only for themselves, but also for humanity at large—are the big. And those who search for the truth in the case of a dispute between two or more parties are the big. Proceeding from these conceptions, I am glad to meet you in Iraq, and in one of the Iraqi cities whose civilization dates back more than 4,000 years. But one should not feel satisfied with talking only about history. One should seek to use history in the service of humanity. We are determined in this country to act—in order to feel good—not based only on national considerations, but also human considerations, whether concerning our region or remote areas on earth. It is true, we know, that we are a small country. We also know humanity needs both the big and the small. When an old man leaves the world, a young man moves along the road. The big cannot measure their size unless there are small ones around. So, even by material standards, a big one needs a small one to know he is big. On the other hand, the small is to be blamed, because if he were not small, the big would not grow big.

I thank you for this frankness in your letter, and I consider this frankness a key to a future based on sufficient clarity. Some may think frankness upsets Iraq when it is practiced in the Western democracies. But I say frankness does not upset us because it serves us in at least two areas: It guides us when we make mistakes, and it guides us when we do things right. We hold fast to the right when we find that the opposite frankness is unable to convince us of the contrary. We reconsider our policies and positions when we find that frankness showed up our mistakes and shook our convictions. I strongly believe this is the biggest result of exercising democratic rights.

I believe the Iraqi and American politicians need to know each other. They need to know the history of the two countries as to the basic factors related to social, cultural, and political life, because this knowledge is indispensable if one wants to draw the proper conclusions.

Therefore, as you are worried because of reports reaching you from Iraq and because of the policies you criticize, we also are worried because of reports we receive from the United States and about the policies you follow. Some Westerners sometimes confuse things. They imagine that when the Arabs speak of the Arab nation, they seek leadership for the Arab nation. And although, from the humanitarian and democratic viewpoints, we do not think this door should be closed, we would like to point out we believe, that being one nation, any weak Arab policy will reflect negatively on other Arab states. We have many examples. When Egypt weakens, Riyadh, Baghdad, and Amman become weak. When Riyadh becomes strong, this will reflect positively on Baghdad, Marrakech, and Algiers.

Such a situation does not exist, for instance, in Western Europe, because Europe is composed of states and nations. The Arabs are composed of states, but they are one nation and one Arab mind affects another Arab mind, not only because they speak the same language, but because they have the same soul. They imbibe their culture from the same source. You therefore might find that there are various policies in the Arab homeland. Iraq has a policy, Saudi Arabia has a policy, Algeria has a policy, and Morocco has a policy. But when they are provoked, they all rise in the same direction. This should be taken into account, not in order to be destroyed and to be worked against, but to be understood with the aim of building firm bridges in ties between the Arab nation and the states and nations that seek good relations with the Arabs. Therefore, we are aware a large-scale campaign is being launched against us from the United States and Europe.

Senator Dole: Not from President Bush. Yesterday he told us he does not support this.

The president: You must have noticed we did not tell the Arabs to launch a countercampaign. Nevertheless, we find there in the Arab world a campaign is mounting against your policy toward us. Why is that? Before we ask this question, we ask: Are you not democratic in the United States? Do you not want peoples to exercise their democratic rights, something which is openly claimed in the United States? Do you not respect people's freedom? I know this is what the United States declares.

Senator Dole: It is a basic issue for us.

The president: Then does this not prompt you to reconsider your policies and ideas when you know an entire nation considers that the U.S., Israeli, and British attitudes imply a provocation to the entire nation and are unfair to Iraq? You know as well as I do that the Western media are more powerful than the Arab media. Therefore, the Western media were supposed to have convinced the Arab public of their logic and intentions within this period during which the campaign was launched. If the Western media failed to convince the Arab citizen of their logic, then there must be an error; this error is not a technical one, but is within the concept of truth and falsehood. Iraqi radio does not reach all parts of the Arab homeland, and you are aware that, technically and otherwise, the Third World countries have not reached superpower or big power capability.

According to these meanings, then, and in line with democratic concepts, I say the Arab nation considers the position against Iraq unfair and premeditated. I will discuss this issue again with the U.S. Senate members, led by Mr. Dole. When I talk about excuses, I do not mean, for instance, to convince you of each excuse, because I know you differ completely with me on this

issue. I do this only out of respect for you, and to make available for you some vocabulary to use with the officials in the United States so your excuses will be supported by something you have heard from the highest authorities in Iraq.

It is said Iraq has threatened Israel, although the speech is clear and is translated into English. The speech says, in the light of perception and conviction, that this campaign is intended to create the psychological, media, and political cover for Israel to attack us the way it did in 1981. The campaign also is similar to that which took place in 1981, though this one is harsher.

Senator Dole: Once more, I want to assert the U.S. Government is not the cause of the campaign.

The president: Anyway, it is a campaign taking place in the United States.

Senator Dole: Mr. President, we condemned the Israeli attack in 1981.

The president: Yes, you condemned it. However, many reports showed the United States knew about it in advance.

Senator Dole: I am sorry I interrupted. I will talk about this later.

The president: If the United States did not know about the attack, the problem, then, is much bigger, because the United States is the one who is providing Israel with the elements of strength. So, if any superpower makes available the elements of strength to any country in the region or outside the region and cannnot, to any extent, control the way it uses that strength, this is, then, what threatens peace. This, moreover, puts the world face to face with surprises whose results the world does not know how to control.

I come back to my statement. I said: If Israel strikes, we will strike back. I repeat now, in your presence, that if Israel strikes, we will strike back. I believe this is a fair stand. A stand known in advance is what helps peace, and not otherwise. For if Israel realizes it will be struck, it might refrain from striking. Then, if the West truly wants peace, such behavior is for the sake of peace. This behavior, furthermore, only disturbs those who want Israel to strike at Iraq without Iraq retaliating. I also have said: If Israel uses atomic bombs, we will strike at it with the binary chemical weapon. I reiterate now that if Israel does this, we will do that. We have given instructions to the commanders of the air bases and the missile formations that once they hear Israel has hit any place in Iraq with the atomic bomb, they will load the chemical weapon with as much as will reach Israel and direct it at its territory. For we might be in Baghdad holding a meeting with the command when the atomic bomb falls on us. So, to make the military order clear to the air and missile bases' commanders, we have told them if they do not receive an order from a higher authority and a city is struck by an atomic bomb, they will point toward Israel any weapons capable of reaching it.

Mr. Dole, Senate members, I know chemical weapons were prohibited by the Geneva Convention. I know and I do not forget our commitments, nor the fact we signed it. But are chemical weapons more dangerous for humanity than nuclear bombs?

You are citizens and officials of a superpower. You know, scientifically and practically, the effect of each weapon. You also know that when chemical weapons were prohibited, this was an across-the-board prohibition. So, how can you ask Iraq not to use chemical weapons against atomic bombs used by a belligerent party that is continuously threatening the Arab nation? Are the atomic weapons more destructive than the hydrogenic?

Senator Dole: The hydrogenic are.

The president: Suppose that years before a war broke out between you and the Soviet Union—because now an environment of detente is prevalent, thanks be to God, and this is good for humanity at large—and the Soviet Union used the atomic bomb against you? Will you be able to distinguish, when you strike back, the hydrogenic from the atomic? Then, how would it be if the opposite happened and the Soviet Union used the hydrogenic bomb? In this case, would you not use the atomic bomb?

Then, regardless of how the speech was interpreted by the media, the speech is as follows: If Israel strikes, we will strike at it. Our speech is clear. It is written in Arabic and English, and recorded on audio and video. We do not go back on what we say. If Israel strikes and uses atomic weapons, then we will use the binary chemicals. This is our stand, and it will not change. As to what some like to say about Iraq making threats, we do not apologize for the statement we made, because it is clear, just, and defensive, as well as a right.

I also know the difference between possessing weapons and using them. I believe it is the Arabs' right to possess any weapon their enemy possesses. Iraq does not have the atomic bomb. If Iraq possessed it, we would declare so in order to maintain peace and to prevent Israel from using the atomic bomb. But, if any Arab state declares, now or a month later, that it possesses the atomic bomb, myself and the Iraqis will be the first to express support and respect for this action. Why? Don't I know the meaning of wars and their atrocities! Are we seeking wars and tragedies? We want peace. However, since we know the laws of the age, we realize peace cannot be achieved between an entity supported by all the modern forces of a superpower and an Arab entity that is still beginning the road. We do not want atomic, chemical, and biological weapons to spread. If the West truly wants the same thing, then let it declare the entire region must be clear of atomic, chemical, and biological weapons.

Who made the Arabs search for and produce chemical weapons? It was Israel. The Arabs know Israel has chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. So, what do you expect the Arabs to do? Give up their homelands and abandon their peoples? Why is it assumed only

Israel acts in a responsible manner when it comes to weapons, while Arabs do not? From a scientific viewpoint, hitting the Iraqi nuclear reactor amounts to a nuclear explosion. Some scientists believe there may be complications that may lead to contamination similar to that caused by the use of nuclear weapons. Israel hit the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which was on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The West denounces Iraq's possession of rocket systems and harasses Iraq for transferring technology and innovations regarding this. The West also is worried about the launch of the al-'Abid rocket, which has the capability of carrying satellites. However, it congratulates Israel when it launches a rocket or actually places a satellite in orbit.

Arabs hear affronts and insults directed against them by the West every day. Why? Has the control of the Zionist trend over you reached the extent that it deprives you of your humanity? Has patriotism in those countries become so weak that they no longer are able to say what is right and what is wrong? Is this the price for the electoral campaigns and the influence of the Zionist lobby on the outcome of those elections? If this is the case, then we—not trying to boast about anything, but to express our responsibility—believe Arabs now have an extra task, not only to liberate themselves, but also to liberate certain dark corners in the world from the extortion of the Zionist lobby. This only can be achieved through peace and only when Arabs prove a match for Israel. Then, we not only will be helping to liberate ourselves, but to liberate others from the weight of the Zionist pressure they are subjected to in the West.

We want peace. However, we do not want the price of peace to be the Arabs' submission and humiliation, or the usurpation of their land and rights. We want the peace that will put everyone on the same human level and give everyone the same human value, a peace in which the intent of the UN Charter is implemented.

We do not have the desire or intention of attacking anyone. We must say, however, that we have the determination and the willpower to retaliate against any aggression. Without having any intention other than to respect the human laws that exist in this age, we want to establish good relations with the United States, provided we feel certain the United States of America feels the same way.

I hope you will not be offended by my frankness, because I want to say something. You have said some members of Congress may ask for sanctions against Iraq. But, have you asked yourselves how you can impose sanctions against Iraq? You have not armed Iraq. You have not given it economic or financial aid. Instead, you carried out a witch-hunt against the Iraqis when they bought small technological items from the U.S. market. You have neither brought us to power, nor do you protect us. You give missiles to Israel. And, when we possess a missile so we can tell Israel we have such and such a missile, you give Israel a missile to intercept our missile.

We do not consider this as directed against the security of Iraq alone, but also against the security of the Arabs. It also is an unjust position. A just peace is possible when, if Israel possesses one missile, the Arabs possess one missile, so neither can use it. Why, then, do you put pressure on or punish Iraq? You only punish Iraq when you engage in an act of aggression against it. Do you want to do this? We do not want to engage in any aggression against you; this is not our policy. But we are determined to resist anyone who enagages in aggression against us. We will not be happy to have something happen, even if we are victorious. We are not happy war broke out between us and Iran, even though we emerged victorious, as you know. Had the Iranians been victorious, they would, perhaps, have been happy.

You know our real power lies in peace. We do not have any problem, nor are we unable to deal with the rules of the age creatively to thus escape wars and problems. But the people of the country that fought for eight years and sacrificed tens of thousands of their best men to protect the country's dignity cannot possibly avoid defending their pride, security, or sovereignty when they are threatened. When the people in your country hold opposite views to those of the leaders, only the President and a number of his administration officials fall. In our countries, on the other hand, when the people change their view of their leaders, the entire system falls; indeed, the entire historical opportunity for development will collapse. The leaders of the Third World, therefore, care much about public opinion in their countries. Let us talk about ourselves. In Iraq, we have a high level of concern about Iraqi public opinion. Therefore, as you may have noticed, I used the same phrases used by Bush in my statement responding to his letter. If I fail to do this, I will personally look for someone else to lead the Iraqis—someone who can do it. If I do not do it, it means I do not respect Iraqi public opinion and dignity, or the equal rights of the Iraqis. In addition to this, you know we developed the missiles so they could reach Tehran after we had been hit for three years by Tehran's missiles.

I did not hear the West showing similar solidarity against the Iranian missiles when they hit Baghdad. I suggest you look back to this period or ask someone to do this for you. You will find that when we hit Tehran, the West termed this as escalation of the situation, although we warned Tehran and told the Iranians we possessed a missile that could hit Tehran to avert the possibility the Iranians would continue their attacks on Baghdad. But they thought we were not being truthful. After they repeated their a tacks on Baghdad, we retaliated. In the battles of liberation, we did not use this missile against Tehran, although our superiority was known.

We then thought about chemical weapons when Iran attacked us in al-Muhammarah [Khurramshahr] with chemical weapons. These facts were documented by the military during the war, but we did not announce them.

It is I who prevented their announcement at the time because the weapons were new and I feared it might create panic within the Armed Forces. This took place in al- Muhammarah in 1980.

You are welcome. I have concluded my statement. If you do not feel tired, we will take a helicopter together and show you the map of Iraq so you can see its cities. We then will visit any city you admire, especially the Kurdish cities, so you can hear public opinion for yourselves. You can then convey what you see to your colleagues in Congress and the U.S. Administration and whether you believe these people are persecuted or that Saddam Husayn kills the Iraqis, especially the Kurds, as alleged by the Western media and some Western politicians.

We would like you to see the Iraqi people, if you feel you would like to.

Senator Robert Dole: I will discuss this with my colleagues. If there is enough time, I have a couple of remarks to make. There are basic differences between our two countries. We have a free media in the United States. When Your Excellency pronounces the word Western, I do not know if you mean the government. There was one person who was not authorized to say anything about the government. He was a commentator for VOA, which represents only the government. That person was fired. Please let me tell you only 12 hours ago, President Bush declared to me he wants better relations and that the U.S. Government wants better relations with Iraq.

Your Excellency the President, we might better understand if we saw people. We believe, as leaders in the U.S. Congress, that Congress does not represent Bush or the government. I assume Bush will object to the sanctions. He may veto them, unless something provocative occurs.

The U.S. ambassador: As an American ambassador, I can confirm this is the U.S. Government policy.

Senator Dole: We in Congress also try to exert our utmost efforts in this direction. The President may disagree with Congress. If he has a different viewpoint, he has the right to express it and exercise his powers. Your Excellency the President, I would like to say we know the importance of Iraq. You are the second country in oil reserves, your country is the second largest country in the region, and you have a deep-rooted history. We also understand Iraq's importance even in the peace process, although you are not the main party. When we talk about peace in the region, we mean peace for all countries in the region.

Regarding weapons, whether biological, chemical, or nuclear, we hope this will be part of a comprehensive settlement to make this region free of these kinds of weapons.

The president: That is fine by the Arabs.

Senator Dole: I would like to ask: How can we improve our relations when we read a report like this one: U.S. television said yesterday that in the Salman Bak area south of Baghdad, you are developing a virus to destroy whole cities. This leaves a negative impression. Are you developing this virus, these germ weapons?

The president: Let us ask: Do the Americans not have biological weapons? Does Israel not have biological weapons? Does the world not have biological weapons, regardless of their use? Does the world not conduct research in this field, apart from weaponry?

Senator Dole: Not in the United States. Biological weapons have been renounced in the United States since the Nixon administration.

The president: Is not research being done on them?

Delegation member: We conduct research, but there is no production of this type.

The president: Is not Cairo banned from conducting research in the biological field?

Senator Dole: Biological science is not banned, but the production of biological weapons constitutes a serious threat.

The president: I would like to explain to their excellencies, the Congress members, and say the following: We are aware of what the biological weapons mean. We are aware if such a method were used, the situation would become uncontrollable. Therefore, rest assured on this point. We speak about what we have. We also speak about what we will use if an aggression is mounted against us. Therefore, regardless of what is said in the papers, if we had biological weapons, we would have admitted it. If there is anyone in the world, if he is our enemy and fears biological weapons, let him come, and together we will scrap biological weapons.

Thus, we have no biological weapons, but we do have chemical weapons. But can President Bush tell me or tell the Iraqi National Assembly, as I have just told you about Iraq, that Israel has no biological weapons? I have spoken about what Iraq has, but can President Bush speak about Israel and say it has no biological weapons?

Senator McClure: We will ask him. We have no information, but we will ask him.

The president: Then let us agree. I have said Iraq has no biological weapons, because Iraq is aware of the danger of toying with this issue.

As to whether scientists have done research on this or that sort of germ, I do not give a guarantee in this matter, and I do not deny it. Therefore, let us agree. Chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons are a threat to the world, and it is our duty to cleanse the world, one region after another, of these weapons. Here I speak of Iraq. Therefore, it is certain there are nuclear and chemical weapons in our region. If we search carefully, we might discover biological weapons. It is in the interest of the world, and in the interest of peace and security in the region and the world, to cleanse this region and to establish an accurate,

true, and fair system of inspection. Then and only then will we be fair in our methods.

Senator Dole: Mr. President, I would like to ask only one thing. I highly welcome what you have said, that this policy is the definite government policy. But how can we implement what you have said? This is another question. But I think we will try to do so. The point I want to make is that I can appreciate your feelings about the importance of providing means of defense for yourselves. However, the world is viewing the development of mass destruction weapons with the feeling they mean an increased threat to mankind.

The president: This is true, and we have the same feelings. Moreover, we do not want these weapons to exist in the region.

Senator Dole: I do not know everything the U.S. Government knows, but I do not know that there is a biological capability in the Israeli arsenal. I also would like to make a simple distinction for us to understand each other. There is a difference between basic scientific research and attempts to develop biological weapons.

The president: I mean conventional scientific research, not germ warfare. I mean using germs for scientific purposes. I am aware that conducting research on germs for military puproses amounts to using them as a weapon.

Tariq 'Aziz: You must have heard President Saddam Husayn state he is prepared to declare the entire Middle East a free zone.

The president: Including Iran.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, including Iran and the whole region—to be declared free of all types of weapons of wholesale destruction. It is an official statement binding on the Iraqi Government, and you may repeat it. You are going to Israel. Can you get the Israeli Government to issue a comparable declaration?

You are knowledgeable about Israel's policies, Senator. I do not think you can secure a commitment from the Israeli prime minister as clear as the one made by President Saddam Husayn.

Senator Dole: If you will allow me, as a member of the delegation, I will work toward getting such a declaration.

Tariq 'Aziz: You had sought such a declaration from the president of Iraq, and you got it. I see you will likewise seek a comparable statement from the Israelis, and you will not get it. I hope you will say as much in Congress.

Senator Dole: If an opportunity should present itself, I will ask for the same assurance from Iranian leaders, except I am denied even the chance of saying hello or talking to them.

The president: But we ought to promote the notion. I think the idea would prove favorable to the world and the region. It may be that the time is right to float such a proposal in Israel.

Instead of thinking of applying sanctions against Iraq, Congress ought to be contemplating sanctions against Israel if it fails to respond to such ideas.

Senator Murkowski: I believe, Mr. President, that we came to your country aware of Middle East history, accepting there has been a conflict in the region, that you still are in conflict with Iran after a long war, and that you are still reordering things in your country. In the United States I think we see the Middle East as a volatile tinderbox where there are huge stockpiles of arms and advanced technological weapons. In Eastern Europe we now have a climate of peace.

When we look at this part of the world, we find tension is very high. We have come to see you, Mr. President, in good faith. We are looking forward to the chances that present themselves. An attempt now is being made in Israel to form a new government. It seems to me there is a golden opportunity now. In our dicsussions with all heads of state in the region, they expressed their firm conviction there is a favorable opportunity. But for real peace to be attained, there must be a commitment on all sides to reach a compromise, as happens in our legislative bodies in the United States. That is, we have to agree on a compromise. I think the message we are bringing you, Mr. President—a message from the President of the United States—is to urge you, as leader of this country, to join other leaders in the region to make the most of this opportunity. I highly appreciate your frankness and views regarding the defense of your country, and this is something we understand and feel that there is a similar concern in Israel, as they realize there exists a chance which they have to use.

The president: To date, this does not seem to be the case.

Senator Murkowski: I understand this.

The president: This is because one cannot be convinced that he who embarks on a broad immigration to the occupied territories really wants peace. Where would he settle this number of immigrants? You know Gaza has a very high population density. You know this also is the case with Jerusalem and the other occupied territories. They can hardly absorb a very small number of people. We view the number of immigrants and this immigration as the basis for new expansion.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum: There are large areas in the Negev to absorb the immigrants.

The president: If the Negev were suitable to live in, those who are now in Israel would have settled there.

Senator Metzenbaum: Some people are building settlements in the Negev.

The president: It is only a limited number of people.

Senator Alan Simpson: I enjoy meeting with frank and direct people. It is difficult for us in the wild West—the cowboys—to understand that when we lose a case sometimes, we do not lose our life. This was one of the reasons that made the five of us—who are, as Senator Dole has said, leaders in the Senate—call the President yesterday. We told the President our visit to Iraq will cost us dearly, as it will make us lose popularity and so many people will attack us for visiting Iraq. Senator Metzenbaum has showed great courage by coming with us at this moment. President Bush told us, however: Go. I want you to go. There are so many topics that we must raise with the Iraqis. Some of those topics have been raised by Senator Dole, and they also are included in the message. I read to President Bush the message we wrote to your excellency. President Bush had at his side his assistant for national security affairs, Scowcroft.

There is something that has to be said after all that. There is no conspiracy by the U.S. Government, or in England or Israel, to attack this country. The other thing is that the President said: If you are criticized for visiting Iraq, I will defend and speak out for you. The things that you said and talked about now, however, are the same things we in the United States of America have said about the Soviet Union—who will strike first? Who will press the button first? Who will turn half of the United States into a fireball? In the process, and we say this now, we spent large sums of money. Now we are going to reduce our military budget by about $150 to $180 billion, whether the peace efforts or talks go on or not.

I would like you to know, Mr. President, that Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze have become friends, and they go fishing together, and that Field Marshal Akhromeyev and Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, have now begun to set up a peace organization.

The president: This is because both of you want peace and have the will for it.

Tariq 'Aziz: There is no Gorbachev in Israel.

Senator Alan Simpson: One may emerge.

The president: If there were a wise man in Israel, he would have done the impossible to achieve peace now, not 10 years from now.

Senator Simpson: We all realize they must adopt a different position in the government. I say, however, that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev now are getting closer to each other, and they now have a personal relationship. Finally, you talk about democracy. Democracy is a very irksome and confusing thing. I believe your problem is with the Western media, not with the U.S. Government, because you are isolated from the media and the press. The press is spoiled and conceited. All the journalists consider themselves brilliant political scientists. They do not want to see anything succeeding or achieving its objectives. My advice is that you allow those bastards to come here and see things for themselves.

[Text] The president: They are welcome. We want them to come and see, and then let them write freely. Let them, for instance, say: We like this and we don't like that. We do not have ill feelings toward them at all. I wish the media men would come. I authorize the ambassador to give a positive reply to all the reporters of the United States. We welcome whoever wants to come here; there is no veto on anyone. However, if you please, I would like to make a comment.

Delegation member: They will go after me when I get back.

The president: If you please, I have a remark to make. I realize the media sometimes are a nuisance, even for the politics of a country. Three days ago I was reading the local papers. I read a complaint by a woman from the al-Qadisiyah Governorate against officials there. The woman says a citizen demolished her home with a shovel, so she lodged a complaint with the competent authorities. There was no response to her complaint. The time was 0815. I telephoned the al-Qadisiyah governor, read him the complaint, and told him to immediately go in his car to the place and meet with the lady and the officials in charge there, and then to call me back, no matter where I was, after he had found out the facts. He called me before noon the same day and told me what happened was that while the lady was building, she encroached upon the adjacent land, which belongs to the citizen she is talking about, and that the citizen has lodged a complaint with the Iraqi judiciary and won his suit to eliminate the building from his land. The role of the executive authorities in this case was that they had implemented the judiciary's decision. Then the governor asked me: What are your orders? I answered: I do not order anything. This is his right. However, I wanted then to call the editor in chief of the newspaper that published the complaint and tell him he should have confirmed the truth of the complaint before publishing it. I did not call, however. Because had I called, the editor in chief might have thought Saddam Husayn, who advocates freedom of the press, was interfering with something that could limit freedom of publication.

I go back to the media campaign and wonder, along with you gentlemen: If governments are not responsible for disseminating what happens—or, let us say if the U.S. Government is not responsible for propagating what happened, how then, was this huge amount produced in such a short time?

Senator Alan Simpson: It is very simple.

The president: Then, there has to be a party behind all this.

Senator Alan Simpson: They feed on each other. Each one of them eats part of the other. A frontpage report in NEWSWEEK is taken by another reporter and published by him in turn.

The president: Let us review the matter of the capacitors, for example. If they were prohibited, it was enough to tell whoever wanted to buy them that they did not sell them.

If they were prohibited in Iraq only, why did U.S. intelligence get involved in such a complex arrangement? First, selling the capacitors, then agreeing with British intelligence that as soon as the cargo arrived at London airport, it should be seized and then shown on television? This is, of course, a government, not a media, action. Moreover, consider what happened to the Iraqi employee who was expelled. Up to this time when I am talking to you, and I am telling the truth, the only thing I know is that we have an employee in New York who is carrying out his duties according to U.S. law. And all of a sudden we were told: You have to call your employee back. Who in my country would task this employee with an illegal action? The first thing that came to my mind was to ask the intelligence service. They have given a formal reply and told me, and the Foreign Ministry as well, that this is neither in our plans, nor is it our policy, and that they have not contacted this man from far or near or assigned him any task. We do not have an objective of this kind in the whole United States.

Tariq 'Aziz: I am sure our position is sound, and I explained to Senator Dole that the person accused of attempted murder is a cook and a simple man with a family, that his children and wife live in the United States, and that he cannot be a criminal.

The president: If he had intended to kill, at least he would have sent his family back.

Senator James McClure: I and Senator Metzenbaum are members of the Congressional Security Committee [as heard] and we will investigate this matter carefully.

The president: My second and last remark about the media is that if the media in my country harm our relations with a country with which we want to establish good relations, and I cannot intervene to prevent it, I will go on television, go to the radio station, and write in newspapers to tell the truth and declare my view to correct the press.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum: Your Excellency the President, you already know that I am a Jew and that I vigorously support Israel. I had some reservations about my visit.

The president: I am sure you will not be sorry.

Senator Metzenbaum: I am not sorry. Your Excellency the President, you are portrayed in the Western media in a very negative way. I am not the right person to be your public relations man. But let me propose something, as I am interested in peace more than any other specific factor. I do not want to talk about giving up the West Bank, half of Jerusalem, or any other part. This issue is up to the parties concerned. After listening to you for about an hour, I realized you are a strong and an intelligent man, and that you want peace. But I also believe you are concerned over what has happened in the past in connection with the United States, Israel, or anyone else. If a certain shift in your thinking makes you concentrate on the peace we need in the Middle East, there will be no other leader in the Middle East who can be compared with you. Your Excellency the President, if you stress this point, I believe your excellency can be a very effective force for peace in the Middle East. As I said, I am not your public relations man.

Senator Dole: I am described in the United States as stubborn. President Bush wanted to build a warmer and more sympathetic America, and I wanted a stronger America.

The president, jesting: In this issue, we tend to go with President Bush.

Senator Dole: There is something I would like to say, since you have invited reporters to come here. Why don't you ask them to go to the place where they claim biological weapons are produced? Challenge them to prove that you speak nothing but the truth.

The president: I assure you we will lose nothing if we ask them where the biological weapons are and also ask them to lead us to them. But we know these media organs as you do. They are like a spoiled child. If this child is given a sweet in response to his desires and cries, he will continue to cry all the time.

Senator Dole: The media have a role to play, and I do not think the media are wrong all the time.

The president: Neither are they always right.

Senator Dole: I always say they are wrong all the time, especially given that they attack me. I am not talking about myself, Mr. President, as I hesitate to do that. Because I lost my right arm in action 40 years ago, I am being daily reminded that all of us have to work, since all of us have our differences. We sometimes despise each other for certain reasons or in the context of certain issues. I, therefore, would like to emphasize to you before we leave Iraq that this is a very important visit. As King Husayn told us, there exists a window of opportunity that we must make sure not to let pass. Maybe it will take another war, another decade, or 30 years before another such opportunity comes along. This leads me to the last point that I want to make. We have to work for our bilateral relations. If there is anything we can do to improve our ties, it will be beneficial to both our nations if we do. If there is a message you would like us to relay for you to President Bush, we would gladly pass it on, as we are going to meet with him upon our return to report to him on this auspicious visit.

The president: Give him my compliments and an account of our meeting. Tell him Iraq reciprocates his desire to improve ties for us to consolidate a relationship based on mutual respect and interests, as well as advancing the cause of peace and security globally and in our region. I am glad we have met and talked openly. I would like to tell you something, incidentally. When, for instance, THE NEW YORK TIMES says something slighting about Iraq, it is reported by many radio stations, not only in the United States, but in the West as a

whole. It will not do for Baghdad's AL-JUMHURIYAH to refute THE NEW YORK TIMES, as no one will read it. In this case, the job falls to the Iraqi foreign minister, the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, or sometimes Saddam Husayn for us to be heard, because we have no chance otherwise. We may be criticized for this. For example, a newspaper or 10 newspapers may launch a campaign which the information minister will have to address. Besides, we are entitled to be skeptical, having been bitten more than once. Over time, and on the strength of goodwill generated by actual behavior, our ties will be fostered and the groundwork will be laid for clear relations, and thus the future will be free from major obstacles. I am not saying the future will be trouble-free, since it is in the nature of things that there should be differing viewpoints and divergent policies.

Senator Dole: Even within families.

Senator Simpson: I practiced law in a small town for 18 years, during which 1,500 divorce cases came my way. All I did was listen to people, and all that they wanted was for someone to listen to them. Every divorce case was brought on because of the coldness of the partners. In other words, there was a breakdown of communication. Self-righteousness, pride, and opinionatedness led to separation. It is highly important, Mr. President, that even while we argue and yell at each other and fight each other, we must still keep up rather than discontinue the dialogue. Otherwise, the world will be shaken by an enormous divorce.

I am not a peaceful person; I like argument and struggle. A while back, President Bush said he hates broccoli, since his mother used to force it on him, and that is why he decided never to eat it. American media have written extensively on this anecdote. Some newspaper articles argued that President Bush, after all, is not the wimp he was made out to be. We, therefore have to....[sentence incomplete as heard]

The President: I understand the import of your words, which fit the entire gamut of international relations, with the following exception:

If a president from the smallest African state visits me, you will see me driving his car, playing host to him, and doing things outside protocol. However, if a president of a big power visits me, I will not do for him anything outside the protocol. There is an equality between my country and the African's. He will not misunderstand me when I deal with him outside protocol. However, Gorbachev might misunderstand my behavior to the detriment of our relations. I do not want our relations to be harmed.

Therefore, the United States, at least within the foreseeable future, should either enter people's minds and hearts, or lose all the people on this globe. Both probabilities are on the same level, for reasons of which you are aware. Therefore, the United States is required to show wisdom in dealing with small states more than the small states are required to show wisdom in dealing with it. The United States is required to bear more than the small and medium- sized states can, because no one will say America is weak and cannot bear up, that its president is weak, that its economic resources are weak, that its political resources are ineffective. They will say the United States behaves wisely and responsibly. Then the United States will be more effective, and the benefits it will reap this way will be more than the benefits it reaps the other way. You are welcome.

Senator James McClure: I believe that over the past four days, we have had the honor of meeting with heads of state. We have had the opportunity of meeting with them, as we have had the opportunity of talking openly with you. We are all committed to conveying these things when we go to Israel under Senator Dole's leadership. We have fairly reached the conclusion that an opportunity exists for a peaceful solution and a settlement of the Middle East problem, that the realization of this settlement is possible, and that your assurances today and your desire increases our commitment to conveying these things to Israel and to conveying the feeling that this opportunity exists now, because very few Americans and very few Israelis have had the opportunity that we have had.

The president: You are, of course, free to voice your convictions. However, I hope you will not forget that for us, the Arabs, those who represent the Palestinian issue are the Palestinians, led by Yasir 'Arafat. I believe it is now clear anyone who tries to deal with the Palestinian issue on behalf of the Palestinians without being entrusted with such a task will fail to reach a peaceful solution. And because we want a just solution, because we want peace, we had better enter houses through their doors. The doors of this issue are the Palestinians.

Senator: Thank you.

The president: I am very pleased. I wish you success.

Likud Elements 'Pressing' for Increased Settlement

TA1704091690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 90 p A2

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin and Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpts] During the past few days, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has been moving to quickly advance settling of two settlements whose establishment was approved in the last coalition agreement between the Likud and the Alignment. The settlements are Reyhan He in northern Samaria and Ramat Qidron near Jerusalem. These are the last two settlements not yet established of the eight agreed on by the Likud and the Alignment when the last national unity government was formed.

Another settlement, Dugit, within the Hof 'Aza region, soon will be established. Establishment of this settlement was approved by the government as early as 1982.

An Israeli defense source said yesterday that "Likud elements are pressing for more settlements to be set up, after Dugit is established this morning or tomorrow. Likud settlement figures, including Mikha'el Deqel, are pressing to change the status quo existing in several places in the territories."

According to the same source, heavy pressure is being applied to set up a permanent structure for settlers at the Joseph's Tomb yeshiva near Nabulus to replace the tent being used there so far. The Likud elements maintain that a permanent structure is safer. Another issue being pressed for by the settlement establishment is the addition of another floor to the existing two in the Hebron Jewish Quarter.

Defense sources reported that ever since Mikha'el Deqel was appointed assistant on settlement issues to Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister and defense minister, the process of setting up settlements given the government's approval several years ago has been sped up. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources, including some of the most prominent leaders in the Gaza Strip, yesterday leveled harsh criticism at the government's decision to establish Dugit. A senior leader, who wished to remain unnamed, said settlers are taking advantage of the fact there is no government in Israel to set up new settlements, which could exacerbate the situation in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Likud 'Problems' Postpone Arens' Bulgaria Visit

TA1604162990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has canceled his visit to Sofia, Bulgaria, in the course of which he was expected to sign an agreement on the resumption of bilateral diplomatic relations. Our correspondent in West Europe, Yig'al Rom, was told the reason for the cancellation is problems within the Likud. The ceremony has been postponed until next month.

IDF Spokesman Launches New Information Sheet

TA1704071090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has launched a new information sheet in English and Hebrew on events and developments in the IDF and the defense establishment. The sheet is to be mailed to hundreds of subscribers in Israel and overseas.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the publication, IDF WEEKLY [preceding two words in English], is to serve mainly Israel's representatives abroad, including defense establishment personnel; however, the IDF spokesman intends to distribute it among additional elements, such as Jewish organizations and foreign attaches in Israel.

Curfew on Strip for Khalil al-Wazir Anniversary

TA1504070790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning imposed a curfew on several refugee camps and neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip and in Gaza itself, including the Jabalyah, Khan Yunus, al-Shati' and al-Burayj refugee camps, and the town of Rafah.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports this step was taken to prevent disturbances tomorrow, the second anniversary of the asassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], formerly one of the PLO's leaders.

Update on 15, 16 Apr Incidents in Territories

TA1704095990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 90 p A2

[By Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the holiday, 19 West Bank residents were wounded in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, according to Palestinian sources. Fifteen of the casualties are from the Nabulus area and the Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps. [passage omitted]

According to these sources, two residents were injured in the village of Dayr Ballut, one in Bayta, and one in Tubas.

Military sources reported two Nabulus residents were injured by plastic bullets and several others who were injured by plastic bullets were treated and released.

Two IDF soldiers were injured in Nabulus yesterday. One of them was hit by a brick thrown at him from the roof of an empty building. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip reported five residents were injured in clashes in the Strip yesterday. [passage omitted]

Two IDF soldiers were slightly injured yesterday in the Gaza Strip. They were treated on the spot. Military sources in the Gaza Strip reported relative quiet and no irregular incidents yesterday. The military sources added minor disturbances took place in several locations. The representative of the IDF spokesman in the Southern Command reported minor incidents during the two-day holiday.

King Husayn on Emigration, Senate Resolution

JN1304201090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Interview with King Husayn by Jordan Television reporter Rana Najm in Amman, 'carried by the U.S. CNN Television network'; date not given—recorded; in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Najm] Jordan is now continuing on its road to democracy by planning the National Charter. The National Charter is going to result in a series of events that are naturally going to affect the future of Jordan. What do you hope to achieve from the charter and what are your expectations for the future?

[Husayn] It was very clear to me there was a need to form this royal commission to represent all Jordanians who have, after all, to live together as one people and one family in the future, regardless of their schools of thought or political trends. So following the general elections, which were held in absolute freedom and where we took our first step towards democracy once again, I think it was important to bring together a group representing Jordanians of all ages and of all political affiliations to sit together to prepare the ground for the future and to prepare for political life in this country. They should try to find the common denominators among themselves and try to iron out the differences, if there are any. They should ensure that, regardless of future differences, there is general agreement on what is sacred and what is not. They should prepare for political parties and political life and thus complete the circle and ensure that the future of Jordan and its people is based on the most solid of foundations, regardless of any challenges that this country and the people of Jordan face. They should prepare for political life with regard for every walk of life and every activity that they would take within the country and with regard for their national pan-Arab responsibilities as inheritors of the ideas of the Great Arab Revolt.

[Najm] The U.S. Senate has contradicted previous U.S. policy pertaining to the status of Jerusalem by passing a resolution that considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel. After your meeting last night with the U.S. congressional delegation and with Senator Dole, what is your view of the issue and what do you think should be done to counter it?

[Husayn] In the first place I aleady took some action. I wrote to the President reminding him that it was he, leading the United States' delegation at the United Nations, who participated in a vote at the Security Council, which was unanimous, considering Jerusalem part of the occupied territories, and taking a stand years ago against the question of settlements in the occupied territories. I wrote to all the senators, and I believe very firmly that the action which was taken is not binding on the United States' Administration. This has been made clear to us. But there were so many mistakes and so many misconceptions and the issue was so dangerous that I felt that it required and merited a discussion with our American friends, and certainly the visit of Senator Dole and his colleagues afforded that search an opportunity to speak of the subject again. I feel that Jerusalem is too important an issue to be dealt with as a political pawn in a game. It is too great a city to be only the capital of Israel. It is so important to the followers of the three monotheistic religions. It must be considered the city of all believers in God, and their rights must be safeguarded. Thus, we had no problem with the previous American position which we believe is still binding and holding. I told the world that Jerusalem will have to have a special status in the future and, as far as all of us are concerned, the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem is occupied territory; it was occupied in June of 1967. Security Council Resolution 242 in its preample stated the inadmissibility of occupation of territory by war. So, as far as we are concerned—I hope as far as the entire world is concerned—all Israeli actions are null and void. But in a context of peace, one does not envisage that Jerusalem would be divided, yet at the same time Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city has to be assured. Therefore, the rights of Christians, Muslims, and Jews can be safeguarded, and Jerusalem can become the essence and symbol of peace.

[Najm] Your Majesty, how do you view the current prospects for peace in the Middle East with the political changes now going on in Israel and especially with the continuing Soviet Jewish immigration into the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem?

[Husayn] We have made it quite clear that we are for human rights. After all, we have human rights and we seek for them to be upheld. So, this definitely is our stand regarding freedom of people to move in this world or to exercise their human rights. However, we have made it very very clear that we are concerned and worried if these rights mean the denial of the rights of others. And if there is no clear action and a rapid movement towards resolving the problem, the root cause of instability in this area, the Palestinian problem, the Arab-Israeli problem, then, I believe that we are coming to a very, very dangerous crossroads very, very soon. Either we look and see the interests of generations to come in this area, and who really seek peace, and for peace to last it has to be a just one, [word indistinct] or extremism and the danger of eruptions in this area, and the danger of fanaticism in this area on both sides is such, and the danger of weapons that are in this area since a long time. After all Israelis are nonsignatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the Israelis' nuclear—Israel has chemical weapons. [sentence as heard] There are weapons of mass destruction in the area. Whatever the reason, it is only a normal development, and there is growing despair, and if this despair reaches the point of causing an eruption, something can happen in this area that would be a disaster to everyone within it, and maybe to the whole world and to the trend the world has taken towards resolving all problems in the areas of tension. So, we will have to watch and see. As far

as the Arabs' side is concerned, we have done everything possible to emphasize our commitment to the cause of a just and durable peace, and more so the Palestinian Liberation Organization representing the people of Palestine, and since the administrative and legal disengagement with the West Bank of Jordan, the PLO has indeed met the criteria, met all of what was demanded of it by the United States and by the world, and shown its goodwill. What is missing is the Israeli side of the equation. So, we will have to wait and see what happens.

[Najm] Your Majesty, why do you think the Western world is using double standards, on one hand it turns a blind eye to the nuclear and chemical warfare capabilities in Israel, and yet it creates such an uproar to Iraq's right to self-defense?

[Husayn] Well, as far as Iraq is concerned, I have said it time and time again, I believe that the fact that Iraq withstood the eight terrible years of war meant that the Arab order was saved. Unfortunately, the situation with Iran is still a cease-fire and not permanent peace, and sadly, again, that is a problem that spells tension, because it is a terrible burden on both Iraq and Iran for the situation to continue the way it is, and it is also a cause of instability and tension in the area. But Iraq has to prepare itself under the prevailing circumstances to face whatever threat it may have to face in the future unless there is progress towards a resolution of that problem. And, I really hope and pray that this will be the case. On the other hand, the Iraqis were very, very clear, and President Saddam Husayn, in his statements, which I listened to very carefully, was very emphatic that he was not threatening anyone, he was not saber-rattling, he was very, very clear in suggesting that Iraq, which believed in peace and justice in this area, was prepared at the same time to defend itself if attacked, and there was a clear reference to a nuclear attack on Iraq as a way of triggering a possible response. So, double standards, yes there are double standards, and unfortunately, maybe the media in this world as well does not give people a clear picture of what is happening in this area. And, I suppose, there is fear that Iraq, which has come out of this eight years as one country, and that has been able to stand in the face of an enormous threat, not to itself, but to the entire Arab order, should be limited in its capability, should be somehow represented as a threat. It is the other threats really that have to be looked at, and the Arabs only seek their right to defend themselves and to secure their legitimate rights on their soil. And, I hope that the image will change, and it will probably take a lot of effort and a lot of time, but I am sure that this finally will come out.

[Najm] Thank you very much, your majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you.

Editorial on 'Political Courage' of U.S.'s Dole

JN1704072590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Getting the Message Right"]

[Text] Credit is certainly due to U.S. Senator Robert Dole and the delegation that accompanied him in the wake of their Middle Eastern tour which has just concluded. After admitting guilt and error in hastily adopting a resolution on Jerusalem by the U.S. Senate and pledging to correct that "mistake" right in the heart of Israel, the leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Senate went on to tell Israeli officialdom and the Israeli public things that they seldom hear from Washington. In so many words, Senator Dole told his Israeli audience to their face that they were abusing American generosity dry [as published] and getting away with murder.

Is it not preposterous, Dole suggested, that Israel had received over $40 billion in the past 10 or 12 years at an average of $10,000 per capita at a time when the blacks of South Africa could not average $1 per capita? And is it not outrageous that Israel is still seeking $400 million to settle new Jewish immigrants when U.S. war veterans have yet to be housed for lack of sufficient U.S. funds?

It is high time that Washington gathered enough courage to speak up against Israel's exploitation of the U.S. and its people, and what Senator Dole has just done and said will go a long way to reverse the picture that Arabs have of American lawmakers. The Arab people have always held similar views about the lopsided U.S.-Israeli relations as the ones just uttered by Senator Dole. Arab public opinion has almost given up on hope of Washington ever possessing the political, intellectual and moral courage to stand up to Israel and put a limit to its endless exploitation of U.S. friendship and generosity at the expense of U.S. national interests and the well-being of the average American. Finally, Dole drove home to the Israelis the message that enough is enough and that they had better stop acting as spoiled children clinging to the purse of their mother.

Such political courage as demonstrated by Senator Dole and his colleagues could very well end up being a big boost to chances of peace in the Middle East. Coming as they did in the wake of President George Bush's courageous statement on East Jerusalem as being an organic part of the occupied territories, Senator Dole's blunt pronouncements to the Israelis stand to stir their minds and hearts in the direction of what is also good for them in the long run. By asking the Israelis to wake up from their dreams and start accepting the realities surrounding them Dole is in effect serving them with timely advice.

Credit also goes to the Palestinian intifadah and to the sound and steady Arab diplomacy for creating the necessary climate and setting in which Senator Dole's forthcoming views could have nurtured and developed. As the U.S. senator aptly told the Israelis, the intifadah has brought home to the Americans the message that there

are people out there struggling for freedom and liberation and the awakening of the U.S. conscience to the rights and aspirations of the Palestinians is something that can no longer be brushed aside. Surely, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his colleagues must be seething with anger and astonishment at the sound of Senator Dole's honest words. Their immediate strategy might be to concoct ways and means to frustrate his political future. But the best thing that Israeli politicians can do is to take note of what was said to them in the most direct and honest way possible and heed the message delivered to them on behalf of mainstream American policy and law makers.

Paper Praises Senator Dole's Statements in Israel

JN1604093590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "An Honorable U.S. Senator"]

[Text] In a stand characterized by courage, astuteness and good perception, Senator Robert Dole declared at the end of his visit to Israel that the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the unified capital of the Hebrew state was wrong in its constitution, conception, and timing, and that he would endeavor to reverse this resolution, which discredits the U.S. legislature.

In what appears to be a sudden awakening of conscience, Sen. Dole also made other political statements which have never before been heard from the U.S. political elite. This, of course, has renewed our confidence in the great American values and has given us hope about the possibility of the U.S. leaders reaching a stand reflecting the spirit of America and its great political ideals.

What Sen. Dole said before concluding his visit to Isael is an unprecedented stand by U.S. Congress members, who have been known for their despicable and regrettable submission to Zionist pressure groups. This is why we have received these statements with a mixture of astonishment and satisfaction and considered them as a positive stand taken by a leading legislator while still in Israel.

Sen. Dole has warned his Israeli hosts they should not count on receiving billions of dollars indefinitely, while some U.S. war veterans cannot find suitable homes. The Republican minority leader also described the Palestinian intifadah as another Vietnam, and said Americans are fed up with watching the sorrowful scenes carried on the news media, especially those in which children are being killed.

Sen. Dole's statements are a true reflection of how the the ordinary American citizen and taxpayer feels about the greedy Zionist exploitation of U.S. financial and political resources. The statements also reflect a new U.S. political tone, which indicates the intifadah's great impact on U.S. society. All this has exposed Israel's ugly face and enabled a senator as honorable as Robert Dole to say all he had to say in Israel and on U.S. television networks.

'Arafat Arrives, Makes Statement on Talks

JN1704083090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman at dawn today on an official visit to Jordan which will last several days. His excellency will hold talks during the visit with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian question developments, and the threats facing the Arab nation on all levels.

The following received the Palestinian president: Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the interior and foreign ministers, the information minister, and the Amman mayor and governor. PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, 'Abdallah Hurani, Bishop Iliya Khuri, a number of Fatah Central Committee members, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman also received 'Arafat.

On arrival, his excellency made statements to the press in which he said his visit to Jordan comes within the continued coordination and consultations with the brothers in Jordan, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, on all the challenges that face the Arab nation, which are being repeated by Israeli leaders, especially against Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. He added that most important of these challenges facing the Arab nation is the issue of the new Jewish emigration, which poses a threat not only to Palestine, but also to the pan-Arab security. He asserted the need for holding an Arab summit to face these grave challenges to the Arab nation, noting that the summit issue will be discussed with His Majesty King Husayn.

Paper Tells of Expected Israeli 'Aggression'

JN1604090690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Apr 90 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Jordan and Iraq: Target of Israel's Preemptive Aggression"]

[Text] The call addressed by the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM to the Arab nation to confront the expected Israeli aggression against Iraq and Jordan is, to a great extent, based on information and indications that are impossible to ignore, because they are the outcome of profound experience with the practices of the aggressive, expansionist Israeli leaders.

Israel feels it has been forged into a difficult situation through the current initiative to establish peace in the region. Therefore, it has tried to exercise counterpressure through opening the door to Soviet Jewish emigration and flexing its nuclear muscles by developing, in cooperation with South Africa, a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

On the other hand, Israel and its allies focused their attack on the Arab nation to prevent it from pursuing

scientific and technical progress and from acquiring the means to achieve this progress. They chose fraternal Iraq as the target of this attack, but the Iraqi response restored matters to normal before things got out of control and overly confused, and before rights were usurped and the Palestine question liquidated outside Palestine at Jordan's expense.

Hence, as AL-AHRAM declared, the current stage is not one of waiting, expectation, and allowing room for calming and efforts at reconciliation.

Israel, which exploited the circumstances of the Iraq-Iran war and carried out its flagrant aggression against the peaceful Iraqi nuclear station, is now looking for other means and other partners to abort Iraq's capability of defending itself and the Arab nation.

Arab military power places the Arab negotiator in a stronger position, and Israel does not want to trade land for peace and does not want negotiations between equals.

Hence, Israel will carry out preemptive aggression against most probably Jordan and Iraq. The Arab countries should know how to act outside the corridors of diplomacy before it is too late.

Force is the only language that Israel deals with and understands.

Pro-'Awn Radio Cites QNA on Hostages' Release

NC1604123490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Press sources expect the release of two Western hostages held in Lebanon in the next few days. The same sources told QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] that the release could take place on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr [feast at the end of Ramadan, 27 April].

Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Meets Al-Husayni, Comments

NC1604125690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, received Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi at 1100 today. They discussed the results of Ibrahimi's contacts with Lebanese officials and leaders with regard to recent Lebanese developments.

After the meeting which lasted one and three quarters of an hour, Ibrahimi was told that now, after influential figures in East Beirut and Patriarch Sfayr have declared that they are joining the al-Ta'if process, one person remains who has not declared that he is joining it. He was asked how long will the process continue to wait for this person. Ibrahimi answered: I believe that the process is moving slowly but is proceeding forward nevertheless. We can only say that we hope that no one will exclude himself from this peace process. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi said that rejecting peace without offering an alternative will cause the resumption of wars and destruction of people's livelihood, thus displacing them. He added that the peace process faltered and was struck a severe blow with the killing of the late President Rene Mu'awwad and the serious security incidents which occurred in East Beirut and Iqlim al-Tuffah. He declared: I hope that this process will be resumed and Lebanon will move step by step toward regaining its wholeness. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Jeddah 17 Apr

NC1704152590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi left Beirut airport aboard a special plane for Jeddah this afternoon.

The Arab envoy had resumed his contacts and meetings prior to his departure. At 1230 he visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, with whom he discussed developments and the results of his contacts. Earlier in the morning Ibrahimi visited Army Commander General Emile Lahhd and reviewed with him the current conditions and the tripartite committee's efforts to end the bloodshed in Lebanon. The guidance directorate at the army's command said that the discussions centered on Arab military aid to the Lebanese Army and ways of expediting this aid. At 1100 Ibrahimi met with members of the Islamic grouping at the home of former Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh. They reviewed the results of the contacts held so far and exchanged views on ways of dealing with the general situation.

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Killing Official

NC1604122890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Calm was restored to the Ziqaq al-Bilat-al-Batriyarkiyah area [in West Beirut] after the Syrian Arab forces deployed in the area removed the gunmen from the streets, and stopped the exchanges of gunfire which followed the assassination of 'Ali Ahmad Abu-al-Hasan, the Amal military official in the area this morning. [passage omitted]

Amal sources accused Hizballah of assassinating the martyr Abu-al-Hasan. AFP quoted these sources as saying that the gunmen who carried out the assassination came from the Iranian Cultural Center and returned to it immediately after the operation. Hizballah's media office, however, emphasized in a statement to the agency that it has no information about the incident.

Iranian Chancellery Denies Link

NC1604142290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The Iranian Chancellery in Beirut has dismissed media reports linking it to the assassination of Amal military official 'Ali Abu-al-Hasan in Zuqaq al-Balat.

Hizballah Denies Responsiblity

NC1604162390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Syrian Arab troops are patrolling the streets of Zuqaq al-Balat area to restore security following the tension that resulted from the assassination of 'Ali Abu-al-Hasan, media official in Amal's branch office in the area, at his place of work this morning. [passage omitted]

Hizballah has denied any responsiblity for the assassination and called on Amal to be careful not to fall into the trap set for it. In a statement released this afternoon, a Hizballah media official called on the Amal Movement to seek understanding and dialogue and realize the magnitude of dangers that are lying in wait for us and that certain quarters want us to exhaust our energy in the wrong direction. [passage omitted]

Syrian Defense Minister To Inspect Troops

NC1604140990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas arrived in Beirut this afternoon on a visit during which he will inspect the Syrian troops stationed in West Beirut.

'Awn, LF Groups Exchange Artillery Fire

NC1604153190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] With the Easter holidays hardly over, signs of the expected major battle between General Michel 'Awn's group and that of the Lebanese Forces [LF] are becoming evident. There was a fierce exchange of artillery fire between the two groups for two hours this afternoon. Residential quarters in the coastal area of Kasrawan district and Juniyah city were hit. The Lebanese Forces media accused 'Awn's group of starting the shelling, saying that the Lebanese Forces were forced to respond. 'Awn's group held the Lebanese Forces responsible for starting the shelling, saying that heavy artillery rounds hit the coast of northern al-Matn, particularly the towns of al-Dubayyah and Antilyas. 'Awn's radio said that fire broke out in the fuel depots as a result of the shelling.

This escalation followed a truce the two parties observed over the Easter holidays in response to an appeal by Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

'Awn Forces Continue To Shell LF Positions

NC1604201390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] According to security reports, 'Awn's gunmen shelled Lebanese Forces [LF] positions and residential areas in Jisr al-Watai, the vicinity of Hotel Dieu, the Olivetti area, al-Nab'a, and Salome this evening. They had earlier directed machine-gun fire at Lebanese Forces positions in al-Barjawi, the Olivetti area, and Sinn al-Fil from Jisr al-Wati, the municipal playground, and Burj Hammud.

'Awn's gunmen shelled a civilian boat at noon today, forcing the Lebanese Forces to retaliate by shelling the artillery emplacements set up between al-Dubayyah and Antilyas areas. Following this perfect retaliation, which caused damages to 'Awn's artillery, 'Awn contacted the mediation committee to demand a cease-fire.

'Awn, Ja'ja' Said Preparing for 'Decisive Battle'

NC1704061190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] According to the most recent security report, the newly-created combat lines in the eastern area were the scenes of intermittent clashes last night and this morning. Rockets, artillery, and machine guns were used in the fighting.

Lebanese Forces' sources said that their positions came under rocket and machine gun fire at 2200 yesterday, while 'Awn media sources said that the 'Awn units in northern al-Matn were bombarded. Meanwhile, REUTER cited sources in Beirut as saying that the two warring sides are massing troops, preparing for a decisive battle. The news agency expects that the Easter truce will collapse following the Maronite patriarchate's failure in working out a concilitary political solution.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Resumes 17 Apr

NC1704060190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] We have just received the following security report from the news desk:

Clashes involving rockets and machine guns between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters have been raging in Burj Abu-Haydar since 0615 today. Intensive exchanges with the competent security authorities are being conducted to curb the tension.

The Syrian forces had restored security after the tension that resulted from the assassination of an Amal Movement official in Zuqaq al-Balat area yesterday.

Further on Fighting

NC1704064190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are currently raging in the areas of al-Awza'i and Arab University in West Beirut. RPG-7's and machine guns are being used in the fighting which erupted in the wake of the assassination of Amal official 'Ali Abu-al-Hasan in Zuqaq al-Balat yesterday.

We have just been informed that the intensity of clashes grew violent a little while ago in Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Preliminary reports indicate that five people have been wounded in the fighting.

Amal Movement, Al-Huss Comment

NC1704083090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Fierce fighting involving rockets and machine guns continues to rage between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters in various Beirut areas, particularly in the periphery of the Iranian Chancellery, Burj Abu-Haydar, Ra's al-Nab', and al-Nuwayrah. A number of people were wounded and taken to Beirut hospitals.

The security committee and the Syrian forces are making intensive contacts to contain the incident. It has been learned that the Syrian forces have instituted patrols in the areas of clashes to restore security.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has expressed regret for the renewal of clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in some Beirut areas. He urged the two sides to stop the fighting immediately and have mercy on the people. Dr. al-Huss contacted security authorities to restore normalcy to the areas of clashes.

Commenting on the clashes, the Amal Movement issued a statement, accusing Hizballah of exacerbating the situation in Beirut. In the statement, the Movement said:

After the assassination of 'Ali Abu- al-Hasan, Hizballah members deployed around the Iranian Chancellery hurled hand grenades and directed sniper fire at the nearby residential areas. The statement added that Hizballah shellfire extended to involve Corniche al-Mazra'ah and Burj Abu-Haydar.

The statement pointed out that Amal officials are holding exchanges with the Syrian forces, which have already adopted the necessary measures to restore security.

2 Reported Killed, 15 Injured

NC1704092490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Contacts are under way to end the fighting which had erupted between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in West Beirut this morning. Efforts are being made for a joint Amal-Hizballah security committee to inspect the scenes of clashes, work out a cease-fire, and withdraw gunmen from the streets. Meanwhile, the Syrian forces instituted patrols in Burj Abu-Haydar and succeeded in reducing the intensity of clashes. However, sniper fire is being heard around the Iranian Chancellery and al-Nuwayrah.

We have just been informed that the Amal-Hizballah clashes have extended to areas in the Southern Suburb, particularly in al-Shiyah, al-Musharrafiyah, and al-Ghubayri. Security reports said that two people were killed and 15 others wounded in the fighting.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has been following the developments in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb since the morning. He held a series of contacts with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, Minister Nabih Birri, [Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] in a bid to end the fighting in Beirut and the Southern Suburb.

Cease-Fire Reached

NC1704104590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Syrian forces continue to deploy in the areas of clashes after a cease-fire agreement was reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah at 1045 today. The Syrian forces erected fixed and mobile checkpoints and instituted foot and vehicle patrols in Burj Abu-Haydar, al-Nuwayrah, and Jisr Salim Salam preparatory to ending the show of force and restoring normalcy to the areas. However, bursts of gunfire are still being heard in some areas in the Southern Suburb.

The Amal-Hizballah clashes have so far left three people dead and 20 others wounded.

While the Amal Movement has agreed to adhere to the cease-fire in response to Prime Minister al-Huss' appeal, a Hizballah source said that contacts are taking place to pacify the situation. The source urged the Amal Movement to abide by the cease-fire, excercise self-restraint, and to avoid falling in the trap set for it.

9 Killed in W. Beirut Fighting

NC1704123990 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in some of the capital's neighborhoods and in the Southern Suburb have gradually abated.

Meanwhile, clashes have been taking place in the eastern areas since shortly after noon today after a state of tension throughout the morning in the wake of artillery exchanges at dawn.

While the number of victims of the fighting and artillery exchanges in the eastern areas has not been counted, reports said nine people were killed and more than 30 citizens wounded in today's clashes in West Beirut and the Suburb.

SLA Dismisses Veterans To 'Rejuvenate' Ranks

TA1504071890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Apr 90 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] The commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has recently dismissed dozens of his men who had been in service for many years. General Antoine Lahd's decision was intended to rejuvenate the army's ranks and quickly promote junior soldiers to key positions.

Brigadier General Ze'ev Zakharin, the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] liaison unit with southern Lebanon, said that the SLA commander does not intend to add troops, only to bring in some young blood. The above was stated on the occasion of Lahd's sixth anniversary as SLA commander.

"Antoine Lahd is a Lebanese patriot who is very well versed in Lebanon's basic problems. He tries to send messages to the northern part of his country, to show them how Christians, Druze, and Muslims can live together in a small region," said Brig. Gen. Zakharin. He claimed that the SLA's operational capability during Lahd's tenure has improved markedly and many terrorists who have recently tried to penetrate into the security zone were hit by his soldiers far away from the border fence between Israel and Lebanon.

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Al-Na'imah, Al-Damur

NC1704095790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli military aircraft flew over al-Na'imah and al-Damur on reconnaissance missions at 1030 today.

Speech Rally Marks Evacuation Anniversary

JN1704133890

[Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic, in a linkup with Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic, at 0804 GMT on 17 April begins coverage from Damascus University auditorium in Damascus of a speech rally on the 44th anniversary of "Evacuation Day", which marks the evacuation of French forces and the declaration of Syria's independence on 17 April 1946.

The rally is attended by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and other Syrian officials.

The rally begins at 0811 GMT with the audience observing a one-minute silence in honor of all martyrs, followed by the playing of the Syrian national anthem.

At 0817 GMT, Kamil Dughmush, secretary of the League of Veterans of the Great Syrian Revolt, speaks on behalf of the Syrian veterans. He reviews Syria's past history and struggles. He praises the Palestinian intifadah and says: "O stone-throwing children; O heroes of the intifadah: Your intifadah is forging ahead firmly, forcefully, and resolutely paying no attention to the capitulation conspiracies and political maneuvers staged against it, with the aim of achieving its objectives of liberation and of establishing an independent [Palestinian] state on [Palestinian] national soil." He expresses allegiance and loyalty to President al-Asad and praises him for the retirement payment given to veterans of the great Syrian revolt.

At 0826 GMT, Michel Rishah, vice president of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions, speaks on behalf of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions. He praises Syria's past struggle for independence and reviews the history of this independence. He says that the masses' struggle was crowned by the birth of the 8 March revolution under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He adds: "Under the canopy of the glorious Corrective Movement of 16 November 1970 and under the chairmanship of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab struggle march was bolstered by the realization of splendid pan-Arab and national victories and accomplishments. In the eternal October war of liberation, our heroic Syrian Army made the Arabs recall the feats of heroism and sacrifice inscribed by our masses in the war of independence and in its continuous battles all over this homeland." He adds: "Revolutionary Syria, under the Corrective Movement, has upheld the banner of liberating the land and regaining Arab rights. It has proposed the slogan of achieving strategic parity with the Zionist enenmy and worked to realize it. Besides, it has strived to end the collapse of Arab solidarity. Furthermore, Syria faced up to the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and to the schemes which have sought to partition this country, consecrate Israel's occupation of parts of it, and strike at its unity and independence. Syria has been working to support the legitimate government and to bring about national accord in Lebanon. In addition to this, Syria is enhancing the Arab masses endeavors to confront the Israeli occupation. That is why it has been supporting the valiant Arab intifadah being staged in Arab Palestine and the Golan and the Lebanese national resistance, because the latter is a practical embodiment of our nation's will and of Syria's liberation policy. Syria has been displaying examples of this will since the inception of the 8 March revolution and the glorious Corrective Movement." He says that the Syrian people's masses pledge to President al-Asad to continue the struggle to embody the values of jihad and revolution in the battle for liberation and socialist construction. He adds that the people pledge to al-Asad that they will work to develop domestic resources and capabilities to help secure the development requirements and the masses' needs. He ends his speech at 0843 GMT.

At 0844 GMT, poet 'Umar al-Farra recites a poem marking Evacuation Day. He glorifies and stresses the importance of this event and praises President Hafiz al-Asad.

At 0853 GMT, Ahmad al-As'ad, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front and secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Unionist Party, speaks on behalf of the National Progressive Front. He glorifies Evacuation Day and the struggles which forced the French colonialist troops to withdraw from Syrian territories. He also praises the accomplishments scored in Syria since independence. He adds: "Our Arab homeland has seen numerous invaders and covetous parties. They have been forced to leave our lands, thanks to the strikes of our people and their forces which fight for freedom and liberation. The luck of the Zionist invaders will be no better than that of previous invaders. Our land will retain its Arab character." He goes on to say that Syria under al-Asad is confirming its pan-Arab character by its consistent endeavors to bolster a unionist policy and create propitious atmospheres for Arab solidarity. He ends his speech at 0902 GMT.

At 0903 GMT, Dr. Muhammd Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and member of the National and Regional Commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivers a 42-minute speech on behalf of the Ba'th Party.

Foreign Minister Meets Visiting U.S. Delegation

JN1704074790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday evening received a U.S. delegation representing political, social, and economic organizations in the United States, led by Dr. Landrum Bolling and Frederick Boucher, U.S. Congress member.

The talks dealt with Syrian-U.S. ties, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the prospects of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement in the region.

Commentary Advises U.S. Reconsider Aid to Israel

JN1604205390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Senate, has revealed the United States so far has given Israel up to $40 billion in aid, and that each Israeli individual receives $10,000 compared to $1 for each citizen in the African continent. Dole also explained Israel recently received $400 million to build housing for Jewish immigrants, while a large number of American citizens are homeless and 3 million Americans live below the poverty line. He also said this situation has begun to cause resentment among the U.S. population.

Everyone knows U.S. aid is not only limited to that mentioned by Dole, but includes all forms of political, diplomatic, economic, and military support. One of the forms of this aid, whose consequences we are witnessing these days, is the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the occupied territory, thanks to Washington's pressure on Moscow to open the door of emigration to these Jews. Israel plans to settle them in place of the Palestinian Arab people, who are being uprooted from their lands and homeland and forced to flee, while the Israeli machine of terror and repression is busy terrorizing the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories to suppress their intifadah and force them to submit to the hegemony of Israeli occupation.

In view of this flow of unlimited and unrestrained U.S. aid and support for Israel, a question has to be raised: What has been the result of all this aid? U.S. officials say the continued aid to Israel aims at providing it with means of security and at persuading it to move toward a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem. They also say the same thing about their arms supply. Has a determination really taken shape in the Zionist entity to achieve an honorable peace with the Arabs? Definitely, nothing of the sort.

U.S. aid, which has caused the greatest damage to the United States' reputation and credibility in the region and the world, has encouraged Israel to go too far and to prepare for new aggressive plans. Israel has constantly refused to submit to UN resolutions. It has even rejected the ideas proposed by the United States itself. Israel's leaders nowadays are talking about annexing the Arab territories and settling the Soviet Jews there and establishing Greater Israel. Hence, U.S. aid has succeeded in expelling the Palestinian people, occupying their lands, and attacking their rights. It also has helped Israel violate human rights and the principles of the world community. The aid also has succeeded in increasing Zionist aggression against our people in the occupied territories, where scores of people are being killed or wounded daily and where hundreds are being arrested by the Jews who have become wild monsters without any human feelings.

Reconsidering U.S. aid and the blind bias in favor of Israeli policies not only will benefit millions of Americans who live below the poverty line, but also the Arab citizens who are being killed and expelled by U.S. weapons. This also may force Israel to reconsider its position and adopt policies that will show greater respect for international norms and respond to the requirements of a just peace.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Start Talks With Moscow

BK1704053190 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Apr 90 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, April 15: Jamaat-i-Islami Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad said on Sunday [15 April] that "informal talks" have started between the Soviet Union and the Afghan mujahidin for solving the Afghanistan problem.

The Jamaat-i-Islami chief, who was addressing a press conference in the Federal Capital on Sunday, sounded hopeful about an early settlement and said "this issue would be settled within this year".

He suggested that there should be an agreement between the mujahidin, Soviet Union and the concerned parties to form an interim government which should hold free and fair elections and hand over power to the elected representatives after these elections. However, he stressed that this interim government should be set up for the only purpose of holding elections for a very short period.

On many occasions, Qazi Hussain Ahmad referred to Soviet Union as the "second party" in the proposed agreement.

He said the real issue was that an arrangement should be made mutually by Soviet Union, mujahidin and Pakistan to agree on some sort of international organisation for supervising the elections. He suggested that the organisation of Islamic Conference to be requested to perform the job.

Answering a question, the Jamaat-i-Islami chief differed with the idea of the return of Afghan refugees to the "zones of tranquillity" proposed to be set up in Afghanistan and said it was an attempt to sabotage the whole struggle.

He was of the opinion that the Soviet Union will not provide help to the Najib government.

Hekmatyar Denies Aid for Kashmir Separatists

BK1704015290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1918 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, April 16 (AFP)—Gulbuddin Hekmatyar denied here Monday [16 April] that his fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction of the Afghan mujahidin would arm and train Muslim separatists seeking to end Indian rule in Kashmir. Mr. Hekmatyar termed as "rumors" reports circulating here that his guerrilla group, one of the seven Sunni Muslim resistance groups based in Pakistan, would offer such assistance to Muslim secessionists in Kashmir. Speaking at a press conference, he also rejected even the idea of an "armed struggle" in Kashmir, saying instead that Kashmiris "should continue" with mass demonstrations.

Western sources here have previously said that Kashmiri militants were being trained in Afghan guerrilla camps, notably those of the Hezb-e Eslami, and that some of their weapons were supplied by the mujahidin. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Proposes Elections To Break 'Deadlock'

BK1704021490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1910 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 16 (AFP)—A top fundamentalist Muslim rebel leader said here Monday [16 April] that participation in eventual Afghan elections by members of the Communist government in Kabul was nothing to fear. But Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin faction, told reporters here that the Afghan nation was in principle opposed to communists standing in future polls.

The 42-year-old rebel leader reiterated his stance that members of the Kabul government of President Najibullah had "lost their legitimacy" by working with the Soviet Union during its 10-year intervention in Afghanistan. But he said Afghan guerrillas should feel "no apprehension if Communists participate" in future elections.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who unlike other resistance factions backed a military coup bid against Afghan President Najibullah in Kabul on March 6, said that only elections would be able to break the Afghan deadlock that followed the Soviet troop pullout in February 1989. He proposed that voting be held in 241 of 282 districts and subdistricts in Afghanistan that he said were currently controlled by the rebels, as well as in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. The assembly, or shoora, that emerged from the polls would represent 85 per cent of the Afghan population and would be charged with preparing a constitution and forming an interim government, he said.

Mr. Hekmatyar said that he would not be opposed to holding elections in the remaining 41 constituencies where there "might be supporters" of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), whom he said would benefit from the mujahidin's proposed "general amnesty." Other solutions to the Afghan impasse also existed, the fundamentalist leader said, including a military coup like the failed attempt launched in March by former Kabul Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanai. Afghan officers who were not PDPA members would be able to join guerrilla commanders from the Kabul region to form a council that would then transfer power to an elected government in six months, he said.

Mr. Hekmatyar stressed his belief that "nothing remains" of the Afghan Intermim Government (AIG) formed in Pakistan by seven Sunni Muslim mujahidin factions after the Soviet withdrawal. He said that he was "not part of it (the AIG)," which he described as illegitimate. But Mr. Hekmatyar said he was ready to talk with the other six factions of the Pakistan-based resistance

and would keep up direct and indirect contact with the aim of eventually organizing elections.

Removal of 'Essential Goods' From Kabul Banned

LD1704064490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAHKTAR—In order to prevent the shortage of essential goods in the city and for combatting against economic crimes, General Command of Kabul Garrison in pursuance of the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan has announced today that the transportation of foodstuffs such as wheat, flour, rice, sugar, potatoes and onions as well as petroleum products from Kabul city are completely forbidden except under certain provisions. Says the statement issued today by General Command of Kabul Garrison:

The coupon holders from state bodies and organisations on their coupon examination or those who are in possession of official permit are able to get the abovementioned materials out of Kabul city. Individuals may take out up to 20 litres of petroleum products per person or the private transport may take out petroleum by possessing special permit.

Similarly, export and import items are allowed to take away from Kabul city after the finalisation of their customs formalities and upon the presentation of their customs documents.

Those who do not abide by these regulations will be subjected to penalty and other sanctions.

Najibullah Chairs Supreme Defense Council Session

LD1504173790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] A meeting of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland was chaired this morning by esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland. The meeting was held at the Presidential Headquarters.

BAKHTAR reports that according to the agenda, a report on the transportation situation in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and the adoption of measures to improve transportation during 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] were presented to the Council by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. Afterwards, a resolution of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland in connection with improving the transportation situation was issued.

In addition, the question of reviving Jalalabad City and measures adopted in this regard during 1369 were discussed and assessed and a resolution of the Council of Ministers concerning the revival of Jalalabad City was approved by the Council. Specific instructions were issued in this connection.

A series of other topics were also discussed at today's session of the Supreme Defense Council.

Finance Minister, Delegation Depart for Moscow

LD1604062890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR—An Afghan delegation headed by Hamidullah "Tarzi", minister of finance of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], today left Kabul for Moscow at the invitation of the finance minister of the Soviet Union. The delegation, during its stay in the Soviet Union, will discuss matters, with the concerned authorities of the USSR, relating to financial and economic issues as well as attraction of the Soviet Union assistance to the RA.

Foreign Minister Leaves for New York Meetings

LD1704081690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—An Afghan delegation headed by 'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, left Kabul for New York today to participate in the sessions of the foreign affairs ministers of the Nonaligned Movement and special sessions of the UN General Assembly on international economic cooperations. The minister of foreign affairs of the RA was seen off at the Kabul International Airport by Sulayman Layeq, politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Dr. 'Abdul Baqi Samandari, deputy foreign affairs minsiter, Vsevolod S. Ozhegov, charge d'affaires of the USSR's embassy in Afghanistan, D. Weller charge d'affaires of the embassy of Yugoslavia to Kabul and a number of high ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA.

'Extremists' Clash in Baghlan, Takhar Provinces

LD1304083890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—During severe clashes took place among the armed extremist groups of Gulbuddin and the rival one in Baghlan Province 13 armed extremists were killed from both sides and 30 of Gulbuddin men including 3 Saudi Wahhabis were captured alive by the rival groups, two vehicles were destroyed and a headquarters of the Gulbuddin followers in Sorkh Kotal was also occupied. In these clashes in which the sides used heavy weapons, including ground-to-ground rockets against each other, two inhabitants of that area were martyred and considerable financial losses were inflicted.

According to another report, a ten-member armed group alongside with 14 unarmed persons headed by Mohibullah, stopped armed activities in Kowajai Gar district of Takhar Province, and joined to the national reconciliation policy. The group was active in the past in the composition of Sayaf extremist groupings.

Mujahidin Beat Back Attack North of Kabul

BK1404155890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have successfully beaten back a three-pronged attack of Kabul regime forces some 15 km north of the capital. At least 20 troops of the Kabul regime were killed and another 30 injured. The mujahidin also damaged three tanks and an armored personnel carrier, and captured a large quantity of arms.

Mujahidin Down Military Helicopter, Jet Fighter

BK1504154990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The mujahidin are reported to have downed a Kabul regime military helicopter in Shahrak District of Ghor Province. According to MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], 10 military officers on board were killed. According to another report, the mujahidin yesterday shot down a jet fighter in Paghman as it was bombing the mujahidin positions.

Paghman 'Mopping Up Operation' Reported

LD1604063390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR—Eighty extremists [word indistinct] to Sayyaf-Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Yunis [Khalis] groups, including four Saudi mercenaries were either killed or wounded in the past three days in a mopping up operation carried out by the detachments of Kabul garrison in Paghman District, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent. A large quantity of the enemy's arms and ammunitions including fifty surface-to-surface rockets and 135 mines fell at the hand of the security forces during this operation.

Kabul Turns Back Three-Day Mujahidin Offensive

BK1604141490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 16 (AFP)—The Afghan Army ended a massive operation Monday [16 April] marked by air and artillery strikes against suspected mujahidin positions near civilian areas in the neighbouring hills of Paghman, reports here said. Special contingents of the Kabul garrison poured thousands of rounds of artillery shells and Soviet-made Luna rockets into the hills for three straight days in retaliation for the killing of 12 children killed by a single rocket launched on Kabul last week.

A government spokesman said the operation, one of the largest ever launched, was completed Monday and said 82 resistance fighters, including four Saudi mercenaries, were killed or wounded in the attack. He said all elements of the Armed Forces, including the Air Force, had been pressed into the offensive. "Even the military would not know how many shells have been fired," he said, referring to the constant bombardments that have shaken the city night and day since Friday [13 April].

The shelling ringed civilian villages in Paghman District, some 18 kilometers (15 miles) from Kabul, but it was not immediately known if local hillspeople suffered casualties in the attacks.

The spokesman denied reports here of large-scale civilian casualties, saying the shells were fired on predetermined mujahidin strongholds and arms depots. He said elite soliders from Kabul garrisons were pushed into the offensive to carry out house-to-house searches for weapons and resistance members, seizing some 50 surface-to-surface rockets and 225 shells.

The opposing groups were identified as belonging to three separate mujahidin factions based in the Pakistan border city of Peshawar. Reports in Kabul over the weekend said civilians from several Paghman villages had escaped the shelling, and the spokesman said that local resistance commanders often lived in civilian areas. The area is off limits to journalists on grounds of safety, like most areas outside the Kabul defence perimeter.

The spokesman also denied resistance claims and independent reports here that mujahidin arsonists had destroyed a storage facility for Soviet-built Scud missiles in the Defence Ministry area of the capital a week ago. "The location is heavily guarded and even a mosquito cannot enter the Defence Ministry where the Scuds are stored," he said. But he conceded that 14 kilograms (31 pounds) of explosive were seized and defused from the Defence Ministry grounds by security personnel Sunday [15 April].

Independent sources here have said that the Scud storage facility has been destroyed, leaving Kabul with a single operative Scud storage base. The Scuds, which carry a one-tonne warhead and were introduced to Kabul immediately before the Soviet troop withdrawal last year, have mobile launchers.

10,600 Afghans Disabled in War Against Regime

BK1604142690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The Afghan Interim Government has registered over 10,600 people disabled in the war against the Kabul regime. An official spokesman said these disabled persons are being given a monthly salary of up to 1,000 rupees. He said Saudi Arabia, the United Nations, and other donor organizations are providing assistance in getting artificial limbs manufactured for these war-disabled persons.

Meanwhile, in an operation at Kabul Gate in Qandahar City, mujahidin killed 13 Kabul regime soldiers and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Fourteen Kabul regime militiamen were also killed during attacks on Qandahar Jail, [word indistinct], and (Pashtun Bagh).

In Lowgar Province, mujahidin shot down a helicopter gunship which was about to attack their position. The wreckage of the helicopter fell to the ground near Pol-e Alam.

'Pakistani-Backed Extremists' Attack Khowst

LD1704085490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—Pakistani backed extremists took under heavy fire security posts set up around Khowst city which resulted in killing two armed forces personnel and injuring of seven others during the last four days, said an authentic source of the Armed Forces to a BAKHTAR military correspondent. The Khowst garrison retaliated and either killed or wounded over one hundred extremists. Two arms depots, six rocket launchers, three mortars and a large amount of light weapons of the war-mongers were destroyed.

Also Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis and armed extremists fired on security posts of Nangarhar garison as a result of which three armed forces personnel were killed and four others wounded. The Nangarhar garrison retaliated. As a result of artillery and air strikes, 55 extremists were either killed or wounded. Three trucks loaded with weapons and an army depot of the Pakistani supported extremists were set ablaze.

Based on another report, during the past four days, enemies fired on security posts in Torkotal [spelling as received], Makwan, and Gardana-i-Baba [spelling as received] of Qandahar province. The government Armed Forces resorted to counter attacks. [Number indistinct] extremists were killed.

Also the Qandahar garrison conducted mopping up operation in Torkotal area, as a result of which eight warmongers were killed, 50 mortar shells, ten reactive shells, 300 bullets of heavy machine-gun, and two rocket lanuchers were seized.

Sources Report Ghowr Governor's Surrender

BK1704100090 Lahore THE NATION in English 17 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Islamabad—Afghan mujahidin sources report that the governor of the Ghowr Province, Mr. Abdur Rehman, has, along with his 400 soldiers and weapons, surrendered to the Afghan mujahidin.

According to a VIRA [expansion unknown] report, he went to the area of Jalwanazar for the construction of Kabul regime military posts.

He was unable to stand the attacks of the Afghan mujahidin and had to surrender to them.

Rival Mujahidin Groups Clash; 'Dozens Dead'

BK1704101690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, April 17 (AFP)—Rival mujahidin factions clashed at the weekend leaving dozens dead and wounded in southern Afghanistan, witnesses said here Tuesday [17 April]. Forces of fundamentalist mujahidin leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar battled supporters of a recently assassinated mujahidin commander in Helmand Province around Nad-e Ali, some 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) west of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah, travellers who arrived at this Pakistan border town said. They said that several dozen people were killed and wounded in the confrontation which lasted overnight Friday [13 April] to Saturday [14 April] and was confirmed by Mr. Hekmatyar, 42, the radical leader of the Hezb-e Eslami or Islamic Party. He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Islamabad late Monday [16 April], "There were some problems." Nawab Salim, one of Mr. Hekmatyar's senior aides, attempted to downplay the reports by describing the clashes as "small skirmishes." Rival faction sources put their own losses at seven dead and 22 injured.

Meanwhile resistance sources said the Soviet-backed Kabul government would capitalize on the confrontation by attempting to push through the region a convoy of 150 tanks and 1,000 supply trucks carrying food and ammunition bound for Qandahar, Afghanistan's second city. They said the convoy had already left the Shindand airbase, 350 kms (217 miles) northwest of Lashkar Gah.

The inter-mujahidin fighting began late Friday when forces loyal to Nasim Akhunzada, the assassinated senior commander of the moderate Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami guerrilla faction, launched a surprise attack against the Hezb-e Eslami headquarters in Nad-e Ali, witnesses said. They said the attackers were bent on "revenge" against Mr. Hekmatyar's forces who they held responsible for the assassination in Pakistan last month of Mr. Akhunzada, 37, considered a major "warlord" in Helmand. The assault force was led by Mr. Akhunzada's elder brother Mohammed Rasul against troops led by Abdul Rahman, Mr. Hekmatyar's local commander. Witnesses said the attackers captured nine positions, two tanks and 15 artillery pieces.

Mr. Akhunzada and five colleagues were shot to death in an ambush in Peshawar, Pakistan, on March 25. The commander, influential in Helmand and elsewhere in southwest Afghanistan, was reported to have contacted U.S. authorities recently concerning a proposal to destroy vast areas of poppy fields in the region in exchange for large sums of money and the establishment of aid programmes, according to Western diplomatic sources. Following his death several resistance leaders said in private that it was a "political" assassination perpetrated by Mr. Hekmatyar's faction. This has been vigorously denied and Mr. Salim said: "Every time a chicken is killed, everybody accuses Hezb-e Eslami's Hekmatyar."

The incident was not the first confrontation between mujahidin guerrillas. Last year supporters of Mr. Hekmatyar clashed with Ahmad Shah Masud's forces loyal to the more moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami faction in the northwest.

Rivalry between different guerrilla factions opposed to the Kabul regime has grown since the Soviet troop withrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989. Many factions are attempting to extend their territorial influence in the regions where they are based, strengthening the view of a splintering of the country with the Kabul regime retaining control of only the major cities.

India

Authorities Seal Two Kashmiri Newspaper Presses

BK1604151490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 16 (AFP)—Authorities sealed two newspaper printing presses in the troubled Kashmir Valley as security forces seized illegal arms from police officers' homes the north Indian state, officials said Monday [16 April]. A government spokesman said the action against the Urdu-language dailies, AFTAB and THE SRINAGAR TIMES, both published in the state's summer capital of Srinagar, was taken because they carried "subversive and anti-national" material.

The two newspapers recently featured prominently a report that Kashmiri Hindus had been ordered by the Hizbe mujahedeen, a hardcore Muslim militant group, to quit the valley within two days or face liquidation.

The printing presses were sealed late Sunday [15 April], officials said.

The spokesman said the government was for freedom of the press, but could not permit circulation of "subversive or anti-national material prejudicial to the security of state and public order."

"The government would come down heavily upon those who tried to whip up communal tensions, or instigated subversion or anti-national feeling," he said.

The warning comes amid ongoing violence stemming from a campaign by Muslim militants seeking independence from India for Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

Meanwhile, officials said security forces had seized a "lot of arms and other subversive material" from the houses of several unnamed police officers in the valley, but gave no details.

In the past week, 46 policemen have been suspended for allegedly supporting the secessionist campaign.

Kashmir Political Organizations Banned 16 Apr

BK1604160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has banned a number of organizations. A notification to this effect was issued in Srinagar today under the State Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1983. These organizations are the Jamaat-i-Islami-J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] and its outfit Hezbul Mujahidin; the J and K Liberation Front and its outfit Students Liberation Front; Mahaz-i-Azadi; Islamic Students League; the People's League; and the Islamic Jamaat-i-Tulaba. The functioning of these organizations have been banned and their activities declared unlawful. They were building up an atmosphere of subversion and terrorism and also challenging the sovereignty and integrity and unity of the nation.

The state government also sealed the printing presses of the two Srinagar newspapers for publishing highly objectionable and subversive material with the aim of creating terror in the administrative machinery and in a section of the population. These newspapers had virtually acted as mouthpieces of the terrorist organizations. Prosecution is also being launched under the antiterrorist act against 11 other newspapers for publishing material inciting violence and terror.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said government fully respects the freedom of the press, but this cannot be allowed to be taken as a cover to act as an instrument of terrorism. He allayed the apprehensions of the minorities and advised them not to fall prey to the machinations of the agents of subversion.

'Multilevel Strategy' Created To Check Subversion

BK1604161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The center has evolved a multilevel strategy to meet the challenges posed by secessionists, communal, and extremist organizations and contain the growing violence in some parts of the country. The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said this while inaugurating an annual conference of senior police officers from all over the country in New Delhi today. He charged Pakistan for fanning terrorism in Punjab and secessionism and subversion in the Kashmir Valley. The minister said while action at the political level is being taken, a great deal of work requires to be done by the administration and the police to combat these forces.

Protests in Kashmir Against Ban Turn Violent

BK1704115490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 16 (AFP)—Indian police opened fire in Kashmir Tuesday [17 April] to disperse crowds of Muslims who turned violent during demonstrations against the outlawing of nine militant parties, officials said. At least one police constable was killed and 30 were

injured by the rock-throwing protestors who took to the streets during a curfew break in the inner city areas of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, the officials said.

Police used teargas, repeatedly baton-charged the crowds and were finally forced to open fire when the crowds chanting anti-Indian slogans refused to disperse, they said in Kashmir's winter capital here. No one was immediately reported killed or injured in the police action. Further details were not immediately available.

Some 10,000 people were involved in the demonstrations scattered over several inner city areas, organised by activists of the nine parties outlawed by Kashmir Governor Jag Mohan Monday.

The nine parties were charged with "anti-national" activities, including leading or supporting Muslim militants. Thirty-five of their leaders are under arrest. One of the banned parties is the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which is spearheading a violent drive for secession from India which has left more than 400 people dead so far this year.

Tuesday's protests came during a three-and-a-half-hour curfew break ordered by the authorities for a second straight day in Srinagar and other parts of the violence-torn Kashmir Valley. The protests coincided with an announcement by publishers, editors and printers of all newspapers and magazines in the Kashmir Valley that they were suspending publication to protest the government's move to seal two printing presses.

Representatives of 32 daily newspapers and 49 weeklies held an emergency meeting in Srinagar and declared they were going on an "indefinite strike" until the action, which amounts to a virtual ban on four local dailies, is revoked. They expressed their "deep anguish" at the move, which has stopped the publication of the dailies AFTAB, HAMDARD, AZAN and ALSAFA.

Governor Jag Mohan had accused the presses of printing "subversive and anti-national" material and also threatened to prosecute 11 newspapers after charging them with publishing reports that "struck terror" in the population.

Singh Addresses Army Commanders, Urges Vigilance

BK1604163690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has emphasized the need for utmost vigilance and for ensuring the territorial integrity of the country at all costs. Addressing the army commanders in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh praised the performance of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in Sri Lanka. He said they have done a most creditable job in a very difficult situation and the country was happy to welcome them back.

The chief of army staff, General V.N. Sharma, said the army was fully prepared to deal effectively with any emerging situation.

More on Address to Army Commanders

BK1704032590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has emphasized the need for utmost vigilance for the security of the country. Addressing the army commanders in New Delhi yesterday, he said the territorial integrity of the country must be safeguarded at all costs. Briefly reviewing the global situation, the prime minister referred to certain aspects which might influence the security scenario. The prime minister praised the performance of the Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Mr. V.P. Singh has again asked his cabinet colleagues to visit the border states to review implementation of policies and programs of the government in these areas. In a communication to them, the prime minister—referring to his early letter sent in January last—has highlighted the importance of periodical visits to these states.

LTTE Announces Offer of Aid to Sikh Extremists

BK1404132590 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 31 March—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] has announced that it is ready to extend all assistance to Sikh extremists to divide India.

The Sikh extremists have been trying for several years to divide India by declaring Punjab as a separate nation called Khalistan. Pakistan is providing open assistance to this whereas some other countries are helping indirectly.

DINAMALAR had published a news report three years ago that there were clandestine contacts between these evil forces attempting to divide India and the LTTE. This was denied by the LTTE at that time. Now, this truth has been divulged by the LTTE itself.

Mann, who was dismissed from service for his clandestine contacts with extremists when he was an IPS [Indian Police Service] officer is now the leader of [a faction of] Akali Dal.

In a meeting convened by him at the Sikh temple in Delhi yesterday [30 March], Nakaimugan participated as the LTTE representative.

At the meeting, Nakaimugan announced that the LTTE would extend all necessary assistance to Sikhs to liberate themselves from the atrocities of the authoritarian Indian Government and to form a separate country. In this connection, Prabhakaran [LTTE leader] and Mann will meet in Madurai in May and hold talks.

The central government is shocked at the open announcement of the LTTE's representative at the Indian capital and about the contacts between Sikh separatists and the LTTE.

Two Separate Bombings Reported in Poona 14 Apr

BK1504071790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Poona, one person was killed and 18 others injured in two separate bomb blasts in the city yesterday evening. The injured have been admitted to the local hospital. The first blast occurred in a Poona-Pandlapur state transport bus, while the second blast took place in another state roadways bus. The police told our Poona correspondent that the areas of the bomb blasts have been sealed off and the security measures are being strengthened.

'Major Fire' at High Security Government Building

BK1604130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] A major fire broke out in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi today. At least 20 fire tenders rushed to the spot and are battling the flames. The fire, which broke out at 1545 [1015 GMT], is still raging on the second floor of the high-security building.

Vigyan Bhavan was the venue of two conferences—the conference of state information secretaries and directors and another of senior police officers from all over the country—when the fire broke out.

Our correspondent reports from the site that a thick smoke was blowing out of the second floor windows. Those who are attending the two conferences are safe. Fire brigade sources described the blaze as serious and said the cause is still to be ascertained.

Iran

Karrubi Urges Muslim Support for Palestine

LD1704104190 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi called on Iranians to pour into streets on Friday (April 20) and hold demonstrations against the Zionist regime in solidarity with the Palestinians.

"With your strong presence in the streets you will show to the world that his eminence the late imam's instructions will be ever followed," he told a huge crowd of Muslims gathered at the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni to hold a night vigil on the eve of the martyrdom anniversary of the first Shiite imam, 'Ali Ibn-e Abi Taleb (pbuh).

The late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni initiated the international day of al-Quds [Jerusalem] (the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan) 10 years ago and ever since world Muslims have been holding anti-Zionist rallies in response to the imam's call and in support for the oppressed and homeless Palestinians.

"We cannot remain indifferent towards world Muslims," the Majles speaker said in his speech at the shrine of the late leader of the Islamic revolution near Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, south of Tehran. He added that world Muslims should be sensitive toward the issue of Palestine and endeavor for the liberation of al-Quds by getting inspiration from the endless divine power and their Islamic faith.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said that at the outset the slogans of "national" struggle in Palestine did not achieve any result and therefore, the beloved imam stressed on the "Islamic" aspect of the cause for liberating the occupied lands from under the Zionists' clutches. "The imam's greatness was not confined to overthrowing the oppressive rule of the ex-shah, but he introduced a pattern to the Islamic world which can always be used by Muslims in the best possible manner."

The speaker also called on the people to extend financial assistance to the Islamic revolution of Palestine and not suffice to political slogans. [as received]

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi reiterated that economic terrorists must be firmly countered and the Islamic community should do away with the issue once and for ever.

"Economic corruptionists should be as firmly countered as the Munafiqeen (outlawed Mojahedin Khalq members) and drug smugglers are," he stressed. He also warned individuals who interceded for economic terrorists that they would be exposed if they continued to do so.

Karrubi Calls for Expanded Ties With Libya

LD1604191490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The committee secretary of the People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Tehran [title as heard] has met Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, and submitted a message from Dr. Muftah 'Umar, secretary of Libya's General People's Congress.

Mr. Khansari, director general of Arab, Middle East, and North African Affairs of our country's Foreign Ministry, was also present at the meeting. The committee secretary of the People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah commented on bilateral relations and the U.S. plots against Libya. He renewed his country's support for the implementation of Resolution 598, and the establishment of a durable peace in the region.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles stressed Iran's permanent and basic positions of support for Libya against U.S. conspiracy and mischief. He added: Iran and Libya are fighting America on the same front, and so far both countries have been subjected to cowardly attacks by America and our dear ones have been directly killed by America.

Expressing the hope for an expansion of bilateral ties, Mr. Karrubi said: We have close relations with the

Libyan officials in the leadership and the revolutionary forces. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers Libyan brothers as brothers in arms, and this is based on our belief.

Karrubi Addresses Religious Ceremony

NC1704070890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Continuing the ceremonies marking the Koran revelation anniversary [laylat al-qadr], a ceremony was held last night marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him. The ceremony was attended by a large number of people and many families of the esteemed families of the martyrs, the disabled, and prisoners of the imposed war beside the immaculate shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, at Behesht-e Zahra ceremony in Tehran.

Our correspondent reports that during this ceremony, which was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, several ulema and clergymen, and military and civilian officials, Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi spoke about the significance of the commemoration of the Koran revelation and of the mourning on the martyrdom of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him. He also spoke about the significance of marking Jerusalem Day and the day of support for the Islamic ideal of the liberation of Palestine and of the first prayer in the direction of Mecca [qebleh] of the Muslims on the last Friday of the month of Ramadan.

The Majles Speaker pointed out: It is expected that next Friday [20 April], which is the last Friday of Ramadan and which was set by our dear imam as the day for the liberation of holy Jerusalem, the dear people of Iran will participate in the march, and that—as pointed out by the dear leader of the Islamic Republic, His Holiness Khamene'i, in his recent message which contained extremely valuable points—they will display their strength with clenched fists, tightened ranks, firm resolution, and strong determination, and will thus pledge allegiance to the imam and to the leadership.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Army Personnel

LD1604194990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] On the eve of 18 April, Army Day, Iranian army personnel visited the shrine of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—this morning and renewed their allegiance to the supreme ideals of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

The commanders of the three forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and the officials in charge of the Ideological and Political Department of the Army were present at those ceremonies. First of all, the Islamic Republic of Iran's national anthem was played, and then General Shahbazi, chief of the joint staff, said: We, the Army personnel, never forget that our late imam saved the Army in the wake of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, when the enemies intended to destroy it. He said: Though the imam is no longer with us, the Armed Forces will obey his brave son, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and will step toward the Islamic Repubic's independence and freedom.

In continuation of those ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni explained the bravery and self-sacrifice of the great commander of Islam, His Holiness 'Ali—peace be upon him—and referred to the continuous presence of the army soldiers, graduates, officers, and commanders in the imposed war which caused many martyrs, MIA's and POW's. He said: It is not clear how the country's situation would have been today if it were not for the Army and its resistance against foreign aggressions.

Emphasizing support for the Army, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: His eminence the imam favored the Army and would not let anyone offend it. He then referred to the enemies' plots for the Army's destruction and said: During the first days of victory of the Islamic Revolution, enemies of Islam were talking about annihilation of the Army, but his eminence the imam defended the Army all alone and did not change his policy.

Addressing the Army personnel, he said: You dear ones are soldiers of the imam, the imam who attacked Taqut [religious mythical idol, used in reference to the United States or the former shah of Iran] and resisted against the East and West. You were not prepared for a moment to let our pride be trampled under foreign boots. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: Today you are soldiers of the honorable leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, who resisted against the Taqut, was tortured, yet did not give up believing in the imam and the revolution. He stressed: You are the sons of a leader and a commander who is resisting the United States like a mountain, and today, according to religious law or according to our wisdom, we should support him.

Then stressing the necessity of strengthening and equipping the Armed Forces, he said: Our defense industries should make efforts and move toward equipping the Armed Forces and military self-sufficiency.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: We should defend our religion with weapons made by ourselves and, under protection from those weapons, present Islam to the world with peace and sincerity.

Karrubi, Yazdi Discuss 'Economic Saboteurs'

LD1604132290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi and head of judicial power Mr. Yazdi discussed in a meeting today current

issues of the country. According to a report of the Central News Unit, in the course of this meeting the legal draft bill on punishment of those who sabotage the country's economic system was discussed. While stressing the need for confronting the economic saboteurs, in order to facilitate the implementation of the law and in order to create decisiveness in the approved punishment bill, it was emphasized that a clear definition of the economic saboteurs in every economic sector should be provided; and that those who sabotage the works of the government's economic plans and the country's reconstruction programs must face serious and deterrent punishment measures. It was also emphasized that a route should be open to healthy and legitimate investments. It was agreed that the Majles deputies should clarify each offense more precisely and should determine the limit of punishment for each offense.

The issue of cooperation between the parliamentary deputy of the justice minister and those who are cooperating with the Majles on behalf of the judicial power was stressed at the meeting; as was the need for coordination with the Guardian Council. At the conclusion of this meeting, the specified instances of cooperation between the judicial and the legislative systems were discussed and some agreements were reached.

'Decisive Approach to Economic Terrorism' Urged

NC1404112490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Promises of the Majles and the Expectations of the People"]

[Excerpts] The speaker of the Islamic Majles strongly criticized the lack of a decisive approach to economic terrorism and corruption during his address on the Day of God on 1 April. He declared the Majles deputies' willingness to approve any law which calls for execution of economic terrorists and corrupt individuals.

The speaker's announcement on the approval of the above law comes in the wake of the announcement by the head of the Judiciary on the absence of laws for tackling corrupt people and economic terrorists.

The Islamic Majles will hold their first session of the new year tomorrow. The deprived people, who have endured numerous hardships because of the tyranny of and extortion by the parasitical magnates and economic saboteurs, expect their deputies to approve the necessary and suitable laws at the first opportunity, and to submit them for ratification to the Judiciary as soon as possible, in order to get these economic swindlers and Croesuses at the roots. They have filled their coffers with what rightfully belongs to the self- sacrificing, martyr-giving people during the days of the imposed war and are unfortunately becoming more and more obese and strong every day. These laws should be submitted to the Judiciary for ratification as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the Islamic Majles' approval of a comprehensive and clear law would be useful, and we hope that such a law will give a concrete form to at least some of the slogans raised in the aftermath of the revolution regarding a campaign against the parasitical capitalists and economic saboteurs. [passage omitted].

Saudi Policy Toward Iranian Pilgrims Criticized

LD1604230090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced that the regime's policy will continue this year to prevent Iranian pilgrims from visiting the house of God.

Yesterday, the Saudi news agency, quoting an official of that country who name was not disclosed, announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will only accept less than one third of the 150,000 Iranians wishing to perform pilgrimage to Mecca. The Saudi official, referring to what he called the Saudi right to protect Mecca and al-Madinah and prevent riots and sabotage in the pilgrimage, stressed the possibility of a repeat of suppressive actions against pilgrims and their massacre by Saudi armed forces.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, preventing Iranian pilgrims from visiting the house of God for the third consecutive year, in its pretext for blocking the path of God this year, makes no reference to the repair and establishment of residential areas for pilgrims to Mecca and al-Madinah, which was mentioned as the main reason for preventing pilgrims from visiting Saudi Arabia in past years.

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers 13 Apr

LD1304203290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1226 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Second Friday sermon led by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 13 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last week coincided with the birthday of Imam Hasan, the prophet's grandson. [passage omitted]

This week is the week for giving aid to the oppressed and the deprived; one of the most important Islamic duties. [passage omitted]

One issue which should be pointed out is that of Jerusalem Day, which is next Friday [20 April]. God willing, we will not forget. Honestly, such glorious rallies make God happy; such ceremonies make us feel that we are performing our Islamic and humanitarian duty; and with such deeds and words, we dishearten the enemies of Islam and the revolution. [crowd chants] God willing we will retain this spirit and not say: Thank God, we have enough people here and it is glorious enough, so our presence, or absence, will not make any difference. [passage omitted]

Another thing which I want to briefly mention is the holy Qom seminary. I have been back there for six or seven months and have become reacclimated after a period away. I feel it is necessary to talk about it, even briefly, to our brothers and sisters.

The holy Qom seminary, which was founded by the late Sheykh Karim Ha'eri—God have mercy on his soul—made normal progress in those days. And after the victory of the revolution, it has made quick progress, both quantitatively and qualitatively. From a quantitative standpoint it has reached a favorable level: The number of pupils there has reached 21,000, from the original 3- 5,000. Foreign pupils, Arabs, Pakistanis, Afghans, Asians, and possibly Europeans, have gone there and formed a large population. Some sisters have come both from Iran and abroad. There were none there in the past, or there were few of them. [passage omitted]

Qualitatively, Qom seminary is truly a source for optimism now. There are several expert, well-educated, well-informed, and devoted people working there in Islamic sciences, preliminary theology, and fundamentals, which are part of their curriculum. There are also peripheral studies designed for them to become knowledgeable, to learn science, to improve their general knowledge, so that they can be presentable in public. [passage omitted]

Today the seminary must train future judges and Friday imams, people needed in the executive machinery, people who are in the Majles, the government, and in embassies, and so on, abroad and inside the country. All that is up to the seminary. [passage omitted]

The Najaf seminary is on the decline at present. That cursed Saddam [Husayn] does not permit [religious] activities there. Therefore, the eyes and hopes of Muslims are set on Qom Seminary. Our enemies are perhaps more aware of the effectiveness of the seminary than we are. A British spy is reported to have said about Iraq: [following passage spoken in Arabic, followed by Persian translation] Iraq is a dangerous snake; but the source of its venom is in Najaf. First Najaf must be crushed to rid the world of them [Muslim extremists].

Now they are saying that about Qom. Well, if the enemy is so sensitive about it, we must in return attach more importance to Qom seminary. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Day, as named by our late imam—may God sanctify his soul—falls on 18 April. We must express our gratitude to those military brothers for their efforts during the war and for their alertness now. We hope that - God willing—they will go on serving Islam and making God happy. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

AFP Reports Arrest of 'Hooligans' in Tehran

NC1604160890 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 16 (AFP)—Iranian police on Sunday [15 April] arrested 65 people in northern Tehran who were shouting political slogans and disturbing the peace, press reports said here Monday. The arrests were carried out by government police squads known as the Committees after "hooligans" had "troubled public order" in the crowded Mellat Park on Sunday, newspapers reported.

They did not disclose the nature of the political slogans but said those detained had also raised their voices against "moral order and decency." In a separate development, newspapers reported the arrest of "hooligans" in the Javadiyeh district of southern Tehran who were marking the funeral of a notorious "outlaw," 'Aref Valizadeh, killed April 9 by police who had come to arrest him. He had been sought since 1980 for several murders. But for people in his district he had a reputation as a protector of the disadvantaged. His friends last week built 70 small funereal arches on which they had hung electric lightbulbs and flowers.

Members of the Committees and municipal police officers also raided some 700 huts or booths in Kianshahr, a poor district also in southern Tehran, according to press reports. The facilities, police said, had been used as "centers of vice, illegal activity and for exchanges of contraband goods."

Editorial Questions Need for Ties With U.S.

NC1304180090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Apr 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Why Do We Need Ties With the United States?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

At about this time 10 years ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran annnounced the severance of its ties with the United States. His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: "Why do we need ties with the United States?" The severance of the domineering U.S. ties with Iran was a blessing that guaranteed the prestige of Iran's revolutionary system in the world. Even though the last decade has been a difficult one in which we were confronted by miscellaneous plots by the United States, it has bestowed on the heroic nation and the Islamic system of Iran the privilege of fighting against the greatest economic and military power of the world and achieving victory therein.

In what was an unequal battle of overt and covert operations, unprecedented in the course of history, between an awakened nation and an infernal power, the Iranian nation attained victory merely with the armor of

faith. The most amazing part of this combat is that, even after a decade, not only did the United States not succeed in breaking the will of our people, but it also repeatedly endeavored to restore ties with the revolutionary government through various ways and means. From the farcical McFarlane incident to the mysterious telephone call, the entire series of events is a narrative of a superpower groveling and biting the dust.

Now 10 years have elapsed since the severance of political ties between the United States and Iran. The various events and incidents over the years have proved that Washington and the White House echelons have maintained their inimical stance toward the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran and continue their domineering policy toward the Iranian nation.

In such circumstances, it is not possible to foresee how long this absence of ties will continue. What is certain, of course, is that the active, vigilant, and revolutionary nation of Iran considers it impossible to restore ties with a government which exists on the basis of domination and of holding countries in thrall to it. In the past 10 years, U.S. political, economic, and propaganda plots against Iran did not abate even for a second and the White House did not relinquish the thought of the defeat of the Islamic Revolution even for a moment. Washington's groveling for restoration of ties was also constantly based on deceit and dishonesty. Could the resumption of ties under such circumstances have involved healthy relations based on the principle of mutual respect and nonintervention in our affairs?

The revolutionary nation and government of Iran has never ruled out the establishment of just ties with the nations and governments of the world, with the exception of the illegitimate Zionist government and the racist South African regime. The expansion of its relations with the Soviet Union and its friendly ties with the countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa as well as Latin America are a proof of the Islamic Republic of Iran's belief in relations on the basis of equality, and are evidence of its goodwill with regard to other nations.

The general principle of Iran's foreign policy—that is, the policy of neither East nor West—does not permit it to accept relations on the basis of unequal domination. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers 8 April—the date of the severance of ties with the United States—an auspicious and propitious date; a date when the shame of ties with the domineering government was obliterated from the hallowed history of the Islamic system.

'Uproar' Over Trigger Devices for Iraq Viewed

NC1604094790 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 12

[Political commentary: "The Complicated Propagandistic Uproar From Iraq and the United States"]

[Excerpts] The current propagandistic uproar from Iraq and the United States indicates a policy aimed at focusing on the opposition between Iraq and the West. [passage omitted]

A glance at the Iraqi stances in the recent past, and at its difficult internal situation as well as its increasing economic crisis, and innumerable problems confronting Iraq in the aftermath of the cease-fire illustrates that the United States is engaged in a complicated propaganda game in order to project its new role for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime in the region.

Now the question arises: Does Iraq have the necessary strength to open up a new political front (in conditions when it is obligated to the West to implement Resolution 598 in the United Nations)?

Is Iraq trying to resolve its massive domestic problems or is it seeking to create tension in its relations with the greater countries? Will the Soviet Union remain indifferent to the complicated currents forming in the Middle East? [passage omitted]

Is the aim of propaganda to accentuate the Iraqi role as the leader of the Arab world and as an emerging regional superpower, that is, to give a regime an image of strength when the dictatorial policies of its rulers naturally cannot endure indefinitely!

The domineering powers' hostility and animosity toward the Islamic system in Iran should never be ignored. With the collapse of communism worldwide, apprehension in the West is mounting, inspired by Muslim nations' emulation of the Islamic system of Iran. Therefore, publicizing Iraq's possession of modern chemical, biological, and nuclear armaments could be interpreted as flexing its muscles in front of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the same context, the Iran-Iraq war, which has now become a mere diversionary propaganda tactic, cannot overshadow the uprising in the occupied areas.

The Saddam regime has not yet responded to the UN secretary general's latest proposals for peace talks between Iran and Iraq. As a result, the dangers from this regime and its occupation of Iranian territory continue and only our vigilance against these precalculated plans can guarantee the perpetuation of our system.

Commentary Criticizes U.S.-Iraq Relations

LD1404143390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1051 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Good day, dear listeners. Please listen to our first political commentary entitled: Iraq-United States Relations.

On Thursday [12 April] a delegation consisting of five U.S. Senate members headed by the leader of the Republican minority in the Senate met and conferred with Saddam in Mosul. During the two-and-one-half-hour meeting the two sides discussed a number of issues.

At the end of the meeting Robert Dole said: I submitted a letter from Bush to Saddam in which emphasis has been placed on the U.S. Government's interest in the expansion of relations with Iraq, and I also carried Saddam's letter for Bush in which the Iraqi Government requests expansion of relations with the United States.

Those remarks are made at a time when the Iraqi regime last week, in a retaliatory measure against the expulsion from New York of an Iraqi diplomat, expelled the second secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and amidst U.S. Government claims that following 18 months of surveillance a consignment of electronic triggers was prevented from being dispatched to Iraq. Also, it is interesting that the American public media continue their so-called revealing propaganda against the Iraqi regime. Two days ago, the American television network NBC showed a film which it claimed was recorded by satellite and said that Iraq is engaged in the production of three kinds of bacteriological weapons with the help of a number of European governments. Of course, that was immediately rejected by the Iraqi regime and Saddam in his meeting with the American delegation. He rejected that that regime has any kind of atomic or bacteriological weapons, and in a reciprocal measure the Saddam regime pretended that it has asked the International [Atomic] Energy Authority to inspect the Tamuz nuclear power plant situated in the suburbs of Baghdad.

Despite strongly worded statements by the U.S. State Department and the White House in response to Saddam's remarks two weeks ago, it seems that neither side intends to damage the strong bilateral relations.

Eight years ago the U.S. Government, deleting Iraq from the list of countries supporting terrorism, practically opened the doors of relations and cooperation to that regime. Washington's main motive was to strengthen the Islamic Republic of Iran's enemy and indirectly confront the Islamic revolution. During the long years of war, the U.S. Government continued its support through different methods and finally in the last year of the war took a more active role and by an unprecedented military expedition in the Persian Gulf confronted the Islamic Republic of Iran on a number of occasions.

After the establishment of a ceasefire in the imposed war, the U.S. Government did not stop its support for the Iraqi regime and still supports that regime because it hopes that that regime will continue its previous role in American policies in the region. That is because during the past few years Saddam has provided two major services to the United States and Israel: First, engaging the Islamic Republic of Iran in an eight-year war that inflicted heavy damage on our country, and second, ignoring the Arab boycott of the pro-Camp David Egypt thereby bringing to an end the isolation of that regime.

KEYHAN Views Iraqi-U.S.-Israeli Moves

LD1404163790 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—A Persian daily said Saturday that the U.S. has created the "case of the atomic triggers" at London's Heathrow Airport in a bid to overshadow the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine and at the same time gain Iraq's Saddam Husayn some prestige among Arab regimes as "a figure with hostile feelings toward the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime."

In its commentary, KEYHAN noted that "this year the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan stands ahead of us while the rising wave of Islamic fervor is confusing the Zionist usupers and while the United States is out launching a vast propaganda against the revolutionary Palestinians and the Lebanese."

Since the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, declared the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadhan as the "international Qods day for universal Muslim support to the deprived Palestinians" recalled the daily, the world has been witnessing a continuous broadening of the uprising in occupied Palestine and growing support of world Muslims for the revolutionary Palestinians.

"For this same reason on the threshold of that international day the tumult over the intended export to Iraq of atomic triggers and their reported seizure at London airport, Saddam's pretended anti-Israeli rhetorics, the ouster of an Iraqi diplomat from New York reciprocated by Baghdad, and finally the meeting of a U.S. delegation with Saddam, were geared as hot news to overshadow the criminal perpetrations of the Zionists and the persecution of Palestinians," the daily pointed out.

"Therefore," noted KEYHAN, "it is obvious that the made-up Iraqi differences with the Israel as blown into the propaganda bullhorns is meant primarily for distracting world attention from the steady influx of Soviet Zionists into Palestine, and the Muslim uprising over there."

It added, "naturally the same design will also serve the purpose of winning Saddam some kind of prestige and reputation as an opposition force among the Arab regimes in the anti-Israeli struggle which satisfies both Saddam and the Zionists."

But it is much too common knowledge, said the daily that Israel has been committing crimes as a result of the silence of Arab regimes and as a result of their indifference about the Palestine situation.

It said that the Palestinians continue their uprising "because they have lost their faith in conciliating Arab leaders and believe the way of their present impasse lies in their uninterrrupted struggle against the Zionist regime. That is they are fighting against the scheme founded by Anwar Sadat in Egypt and which is now being promoted by Husni Mubarak and others in his club."

KEYHAN thought that "most intersting of all would be to remember that Husni Mubarak opted to act as a go-between between U.S. Senate Republican Leader Robert Dole (and another four U.S. officials) so that in a crude scenario of artificial challenge in relations between the United States and Iraq he, too, might play a role."

Recalling Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's statement last night, it said "in response to such silly and senseless shows the leader of the Islamic revolution reminds: The proper way to fight the rule of usurpers is that same road on which are treading the Palestinians, and it is the obligation of all Muslims to support them in their sacred struggle...Today no excuse by Muslim governments for being indifferent toward the plight of Palestinians is a good excuse."

Therefore, concludes the daily, this year too, like previous years "world Muslims will heed the call of their supreme leader (vali-e faqih) and will take to the streets on international Qods day (April 20) in support of Palestinian Muslims and against the Zionist usurpers."

Paper on Likelihood of Iraqi-Israeli Confrontation

NC1304172790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam's Israeli Threat"]

[Text] Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn has finally admitted that his country possesses a chemical arsenal as powerful as nuclear weapons. The Ba'athist dictator's assertion to this effect has raised little concern in the international community because during the war with Iran he ordered extensive use of poison gases against the people of both countries. Remarks that surprised the Western world and have set-off a major propaganda war included Saddam's threat to "let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries anything against Iraq".

Is all the present Western-initiated propaganda war against a man, who has repeatedly shown that he is immune to international outrage, necessary? How many statesmen in the world are willing to listen to Saddam's anti-Israelism? Can there still be any doubts about American strategy to make Saddam's Iraq a regional superpower? Answers to these questions and all the queries about Saddam's authority to launch a war against the Zionist state is a big no.

Though the U.S.-European intelligence apparatus directed a drama starting from last month's execution of a British-based journalist in Iraq to Saddam's TV and radio "offensive" against Israel, the region's Muslim people can never imagine the Iraqi despot making the slightest move against the West's most reliable and strategic ally in this part of the world.

With the exception of some old military purchases from the Soviet Union throughout the early and mid-1980's, the bulk of Iraq's chemical and nuclear weapons capability has been overtly and covertly assisted by the U.S.-led bloc. So, if Iraq's offensive technologies and related supplies came en masse from anti-Islamic camps, is there any reason for Israel to feel insecure? Privately, Zionist leaders should be more happy than sad as one of their own is now in a position to hit countries opposed to Israel with "advanced chemical weapons".

In between the lines of Western media reaction to Saddam's boasting of sophisticated binary chemical weapons and that "we don't need an atomic bomb", one can detect the usual hypocrisy and element of bluff. The so-called civilized West must ask itself whether the Ba'ath Party leader can ever resort to the use of poison weapons against the Zionist regime? Never, if he intends to remain in power.

To some observers it is not clear why Saddam is threatening to use chemical armaments against Israel now. Those who monitor U.S.-Iraqi relations will not indulge in speculations nor dig for expalnations to the unfolding of developments related to Baghdad's chemical-nuclear capabilities. To safeguard its illegitimate interest in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region, and its determination to make Iraq a political and military power, Washington now sees the dire need to introduce Saddam as an anti-Israeli leader opposed to imperialism.

American decision-makers are no aliens to the mentality of the region's Muslim people when it comes to dealing with the Israeli enemy. There has always existed a deep-rooted hostility and enmity against Israel in the heart of the free Arab peoples. If Saddam's position is to be lifted in the eyes of the Arab Muslim masses, the most feasible platform is to introduce him as an "enemy of Israel". And this exactly is what the U.S. administration is doing.

The Iraqi regime has over the years shown that it is best suited to safeguard Western interests more so at a time when an increasing number of nations are displaying intolerance towards the West's unlimited support for the Zionist entity and its deathly silence over shocking Israeli human rights violations.

In the coming weeks there is every possibility that Western rhetoric will turn hostile toward Iraq. To overshadow its long-term evil strategy the U.S. might go as far as to take some "diplomatic action" against Iraq and urge its allies to condemn Saddam for threatening Israel with long-range missiles, thousands of chemical warheads and a nuclear weapons program. In the world of politics such tactics are at times deemed necessary and effective to influence public opinion.

On the other side of the spectrum, Saddam, too, will find it appropriate to publicly attack his masters and their foreign policies. At least from the point of view of home consumption the atmosphere is perfect for Saddam to threaten his allies in Tel Aviv and even call for Arab economic sanctions against the United States. Last month at a summit conference of the Arab Cooperation Council in Amman, Jordan, the Iraqi ruler played one of his best roles to attract Arab attention. He publicly

attacked U.S. policies and called on Arab states to slap economic sanctions against the Western superpower. To complete the drama, Saddam said in his recent speech that the U.S. and Britain are ignorant of Iraqi civilization. "They should go back to history. Iraq was a center of enlightenment when they (Americans) were a group of gangsters and killers living in caves", he thundered.

In the final analysis it can be fairly stated that the latest Israeli-Iraqi propaganda war was an American exercise in failure. Regional people know where Saddam's loyalties lie and that in the light of international political developments and their own domestic crisis a military confrontation between Iraq and Israel is very unlikely.

Editorial Calls for Elimination of All Weapons

NC1304140990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Global Disarmament Needed"]

[Text] Both the White House and the Soviet news agency TASS announced simultaneously that Thursday Presidents Bush and Gorbachev are scheduled to hold a new round of disarmament talks on late May 3 [sentence as published]. The upcoming summit was termed by Bush as "time for a lot of dialogue and a lot of discussions." Many military strategists as well as political analysts believe the talks will be fruitful and the two superpowers which possess huge arsenals of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons will reach an agreement to limit them.

Following the implementation of perestroyka and glasnost by Gorbachev, now the international arena is prepared and the way is paved for a real and long lasting treaty on strategic arms reduction and eventually total elimination of such weapons.

Bush's spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters on Friday [6 April] that several major agreements should emerge from the summit including a long-sought strategic arms reduction treaty to limit long-range nuclear weapons. In addition possible agenda items would be conventional and "chemical weapons".

While the superpowers are eliminating their weapons of mass destruction reports indicate and warn about Iraq and Israel engaged in threatening each other with long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear and chemical warheads. The important issue here is not whether these two supposedly rival regimes will use their weapons of mass destruction against each other since both regimes are puppets of arrogant powers. But the significant point here is that while Moscow and Washington are trying hard to get rid of their nuclear missiles to make the world community a safer place for mankind, the regime of Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn and the Israel government—two of the most brutal regimes on earth—are arming themselves with NBC weapons.

History has proved that in order to fulfill their expansionist policies both governments in Baghdad and Tel Aviv do not hesitate to use every possible weapon they possess.

During its war against Iran, the Ba'athist regime of Iraq constantly violated the 1925 Geneva convention and used internationally banned toxic weapons, not only against Iranian armed forces, but also against defenseless civilians both in Iran and Iraq.

Since the implementation of U.N. sponsored cease-fire between the two countries in 1988, Iraq, with the technological and financial assistance from Western countries and the USSR, has developed and stockpiled the horrifying chemical weapons and on top of that biological arms. Providing Iraq with technology for making medium and long-range missiles, the arrogant powers expanded the scope of what it will be the future genocide to be carried out by the "butcher of Baghdad" in the region. Long-range missiles equipped with bilogical warheads would not only affect the target country, they will also cause a catastrophe of major proportions.

Having expansionist and racist ambitions, Tel Aviv, which according to the nuclear experts, has the technology to produce and most probably possess atomic bombs, will never hesitate to use its nuclear weapons against its enemies anywhere, since weapons are made for use.

Both the regimes in Baghdad and Tel Aviv have extensive criminal records and, therefore, it is the duty of world community, specially the United Nations and particularly those countries which provided Iraq and Israel with missile technology and weapons of mass destruction, to take firm, concerted and immediate measures to force these two countries to stop developing nuclear, biological and chemical arms and destroy what they have already stockpiled.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a victim of most extensive and horrendous chemical attacks since World War I. Therefore, as Foreign Minister Velayati in his address to the recent world Disarmament Conference held in Geneva said: "We cannot risk our security and leave the chemical weapons convention now in exchange for a weak agreement at the end. Although for the moment world attention has turned towards Europe, but the area from the Persian Gulf to North Africa can be rightly called the mirror of history and mirror of the world."

Trade With Soviet Union Registers Increase

NC1604080490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The volume of goods exchanged between the ports of Anzali and Baku in the eight months which have elapsed since the first shipping line was initiated between the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran has exceeded 55,000 tons.

According to the Central News Unit, the director general of ports and shipping at the Anzali port announced these figures. Referring to the trend of an increase in the amount of goods exchanged between the two countries, he added: In the course of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] 800,000 tons of goods, including iron implements, paper, planks, railroad sleepers, spare parts and machine implements, chemical fertilizers, wheat, sugar, henna, dried fruit, and saffron, have been exchanged between the two ports which registered a scale of 55,000 tons of goods which were transported by the vessels Iran Bashir, Ghazanfar, and Musabeh between the ports of Baku and Anzali.

With the installation of a 42-km oil pipeline from Rasht to Anzali last year 432,000 tons of oil and gas was transported from the Soviet Union to the port of Anzali. Similarly, in the year 1368, cargo arriving at Anzali port was transported by 22,272 trucks and trailers to inland destinations in all our provinces.

Further on Trade to USSR

LD1504200890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Our colleagues in the Rasht Center have dispatched a report on the goods transactions between the ports of Anzali and Baku since the first shipping line was opened between Iran and the Soviet Union.

[Begin recorded telephone report] [video shows ships docked at Anzali and the port's loading and unloading facilities] Eight months after opening the first shipping line between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, the volume of trade between the ports of Anzali and Baku exceeded 55,000 tonnes. The director general announcing the above, referred to the increasing volume of trade between the two countries and added: During the year 1368, 800,000 tonnes of goods, including iron tools, paper, timber, traverse, machinery and spare parts, fertilizer, wheat, sugar, henna, dried fruits and nuts, and saffron were transported between these ports. Out of this figure, the ships Iran-Bashir and Ghazanfar Musa Bakov tranported 55,000 tonnes of the goods between the ports of Anzali and Baku.

On the other hand, thanks to the completion of the 42-km oil pipeline from Rasht to Anzali, last year 432,000 tonnes of oil and gas were transported by 100 ships from the USSR to the port of Anzali. Also in the year 1368, the goods imported via the Anzali port were taken to the terminal points of other provinces in our country by 22,270 trucks and tailers. It is worth mentioning that on the basis of the agreements reached between the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, the Iran-Bashir and Ghazanfar Musa Bakov will annually transport 200,000 tonnes goods between the ports of Anzali and Baku. [end recording]

Joint Markets To Be Set Up on Soviet Border

LD1504091790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Excerpt] According to the report of the Central News Unit, joint border markets are to be set up in Pol-e Gonbad border region.

The official in charge in Manzandaran's head office for trade added in an interview announcing the news: The Pol-e Gonbad border region has been designated for the activities of Manzandaran province and the Soviet Turkmen pedlars, and each pedlar from that province is allowed to exchange goods worth up to $50,000 annually. He also announced that the ceiling of such exchanges is set at $15 million annually. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Implications of Soviet Jews' Transfer

NC1604091090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Apr 90 p 3

[Political commentary: "The Plot for the Transfer of Soviet Jews and the False Media Cover"]

[Excerpts] The extensive transfer of Soviet Jews to occupied Jerusalem continues without any regard for worldwide opposition and has now reached the level of an overt agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States. According to reports, more than 8,400 Soviet Jews have been transferred to the occupied areas of Palestine during the last month. [passage omitted]

Until now the Soviet and Hungarian airlines have been involved in transporting Soviet Jews, but recent reports indicate that the Finnish Consulate in Leningrad has agreed to issue visas to the Soviet Jews to go to Israel via Finland.

This indicates that Western governments do not want to be internationally humiliated as in the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] and want to place entire responsibility on the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc.

Thus, it is not at all difficult to believe that incidents such as the propagandistic uproar regarding trigger devices for Iraq for nuclear weapons or the hue and cry over the execution of the OBSERVER correspondent are usually the West's attempt to use false news reports to play down reports on the treacherous plot for the transport of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. This is a treacherous plot which is not protested by the Western supporters of Israel. [passage omitted]

It is not too farfetched to say that the governments of the Soviet Union and Israel, which are trying to forge overt official relations, are implementing this plot with prior mutual coordination. What appears improbable, however, is that international public opinion will continue to believe that only the Western bloc supports the racist and criminal policies of despotic Israel in the heartland of the Islamic world.

Reconstruction Money Sought for Khuzestan

LD1304122590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Unidentified Central News Unit correspondent report]

[Excerpt] The sum of 100 billion rials is needed for speedy progress in reconstruction of Khuzestan Province, and an amendment bill will be submitted to the Islamic Consultative Majles for approval. Khuzestan's Governor-General Tavalla'i announced the news in an interview with the Central News Unit, adding:

During the current year, the sum of 80 billion rials has been allocated for the whole reconstruction. Following discussions with the esteemed president and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, it was decided that the sum be tranferred to Khuzestan Province. In that connection, the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr, Dezful, Bostan, and Huzgan will enjoy priority in reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Plan for Eradication of Illiteracy Praised

NC1304182590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Illiteracy Should Be Taken Seriously"]

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Friday prayer's sermons in Tehran yesterday [6 April] called for an all-out battle to eliminate illiteracy on the nationwide level. The president, acting as the Friday prayers leader at Tehran University, added that educational facilities of all cities of our country, except the warmest regions where educational facilities are closed during summer, should be utilized for the purpose of eliminating illiteracy.

According to the figures given by the president, the country had 47 percent literates when the Islamic Revolution became victorious, but now after the passage of 11 years 67 percent of the total population is literate.

As the president and Friday prayer leader said in his speech, it is very unfortunate that after the passage of a whole decade and with the presence of the "Literacy Movement", an organization which emerged from the revolution, the illiteracy rate remains so high. The sadness becomes deeper when we look at the number of illiterate people in the society on the basis of figures and statistics.

Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution 53 percent of Iran's population of 35 million people were illiterate; but today 33 percent from a population of 50 million, i.e. a total of 16.5 million people, are illiterate.

A plan announced by the president can break the obstacles and solve the problem on the condition that executors of this plan don't pay any attention to formalities and would not be after only giving a little literacy to the illiterates, so that they can merely increase the "percentage" of literate people in society.

Today in analyzing the reasons for backwardness of world countries by experts in this field it has been proven that illiteracy is one of the major causes of backwardness.

But more destructive than "illiteracy" itself is the problem of "low literacy" whose results are worse than that of total illiteracy. Teaching an illiterate person merely to read or write his name can never reduce any of the overwhelming problems in the practical field.

Of course another project which can solve much of the problems is the Islamic Free University. Of course in the execution of the Islamic Free University plan problems and restrictions have cropped up, but those who have nationwide welcomed this plan have had relatively significant success. Of course this plan is mostly for the youth and graduates of secondary schools. We hope that such a plan in the future can be extended for those who teach literacy, and for those illiterates who attempt to become literate.

Army Day Parade To Be Rescheduled

LD1604102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—"Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day" and the Army Day parade, held annually on April 17 is postponed due to its coincidence with an Islamic mourning day, the public relations office of the ideo-political organisation of the Army announced here Monday.

The Army Day this year falls on the 21st of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, martyrdom anniversary of the first imam of the Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) household, Imam Ali (AS). A new date will be announced later, the report added.

Nepal

Prime Minister Designate Spells Out Priorities

BK1704035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister designate of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, says good relations with India will be one of the priorities of his new government. Talking to newsmen in Kathmandu yesterday, he said his government would ask India to restore status quo ante as on the 23d of March last year and the negotiations should go on for a new treaty. He said this is necessary to improve the economy of the country, which is in a bad shape.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bhattarai said that general elections will be held in Nepal within a year. The voting age of the electorate is likely to be lowered to 18 years and elections will be conducted under a new democratic constitution to be prepared by the Constitutional Reforms Commission within 90 days.

Earlier, the Nepali Congress leader, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, during his meeting with King Birendra, emphasized that the King should accept the role of a constitutional monarch in the new parliamentary democracy in Nepal. A press statement issued by the Nepali Congress says King Birendra has fully endorsed the idea.

Mr. Bhattarai is to finalize the names of the members of his cabinet in consultation with the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front. Both will be represented in the cabinet.

Says Laws To Be Revised

BK1704044690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 17 (AFP)—Krishna Prashad Bhattarai, nominated to head a coalition government here, said Tuesday [17 April] that Nepal's laws would be revised to allow all Nepalese to enjoy freedom. "All political prisoners detained under various concocted reprisal cases would be freed and the preventive detention act would not be allowed to be abused," Mr. Bhattarai told journalists here. "The new coalition government will try to bring radical changes in the voters list and the election pattern, so that every man and woman of 18 years can participate in the forthcoming general election for parliamentary democracy," he said.

He said there would be a general election within a year and the coalition government would be small.

"First of all, I will tour every nook and corner of the kingdom and try to redress the grievances of the families of those who were killed during or before the political movement," Mr. Bhattarai said.

A pro-democracy movement that began February 18 culminated last week in King Birendra's decision to lift a 30-year ban on political parties. On Monday [16 April] the King dissolved the nation's partyless parliament and called for a broad-based coalition government.

"Our foremost duty will be to redress the grievances of the families of the those martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for democracy in Nepal," he said. Opposition sources claim between 400 and 500 people were killed in the pro-democracy campaign.

On India, with which Nepal has had a serious trade dispute, he said new talks would be called for. "Whatever may be the present socio-economic political relationship with India, my government will make earnest efforts to improve relations through fresh negotiations," he said.

Pakistan

Paper Alleges U.S. Food 'Smuggled' to Kabul

BK1704064190 Lahore THE NATION in English 16 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] Karachi—American wheat intended for Afghan mujahidin and rice and sugar from Pakistan are helping to feed Kabul, the Afghan capital. The food being smuggled from Pakistan is a life line to the communist regime of President Najibullah.

Much money is being made by traders, officials and those mujahidin who are letting the trucks through, at a price, and while money is being made, fighting has naturally stopped in Afghanistan.

When the mudjahidin closed the road between Pakistan and Kabul at Spin Buldak during June and December last, prices in the Afghan capital soared, stocks dwindled and the Kabulis panicked. Since January this year the mujahidin have let the loaded trucks through, at low price, and there has been no food shortage in Kabul. In good weather as many as 200 trucks take the road. Besides the one to Kabul, other trading routes also exist between the mujahidin and government territory. The one between Mazar-e Sharif and Faizabad and the other between Kabul and Jalalabad have been open for months.

The trail starts at Karachi where the wheat for the Afghan refugees is unloaded. Large quantities of this wheat find their way to the border town of Chaman where Pakistani rice and sugar are also delivered.

The shipments then begin a 400-mile journey through territory controlled by Afghan mujahidin, past the outskirts of Qandahar, through Zabol and Ghazni provinces, entering government held territory at Maydan Sharif in Vardak province, 20 miles west of Kabul.

Along the long trail bandits, government soldiers and mujahidin charge a price for safe transit.

The end of the trail is a collection of red and blue containers at Kabul's western edge. Kabulis call this "the mujahidin market" among the buyers are traders from Kabul's bazaars and government officials seeking wheat, rice, sugar and cooking oil.

Punjab Chief Minister Escapes Murder Attempt

BK1704073890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, April 17 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif escaped an apparent attempt on his life Monday [16 April] after his guards overpowered an armed man who had forced his way into his house here, newspapers reported Tuesday. According to a Lahore daily, THE NATION, an unidentified young man armed with a loaded revolver entered the model town family home of Mr. Sharif, chief minister of Punjab, around 12.30 p.m. (0730 GMT).

A similar report carried by another newspaper, THE MUSLIM, said the man opened fire when challenged and managed to forcibly enter the house, but the guards overpowered him before he could locate Mr. Sharif and handed him to the police. The reports said the intruder's political affiliation and motives were not yet known.

Mr. Sharif, 41, who leads the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), heads the opposition-led government in the populous Punjab Province where Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is in the minority.

At a party meeting later he blamed the PPP for for the law and order situation in his province, saying "professional murderers and violent convicts" who were released from jails by Ms. Bhutto after she came to power in December 1988 "were causing trouble in Punjab."

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), however, said the intruder wanted an immediate meeting with the chief minister "to seek his brother's release." He "got infuriated" at the guards' refusal and produced his revolver, firing two two shots, but the guards escaped unhurt, APP said.

Spokesman Denies Plane Violated Indian Airspace

BK1404130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] An official spokesman today denied a report that there was violation of Indian airspace by a Pakistani aircraft in the Jammu sector yesterday. The report appeared in a national daily today. The spokesman said that there was no such violation. However, sporadic firing and shelling were reported along the line of control as usual.

Mob Attacks Kashmir Affairs Minister in Chilas

BK1604024690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Some agitated individuals gathered in Chilas yesterday, where Northern Areas and Kashmir Affairs Minister Mohammad Hanif Khan was scheduled to address a public rally. These people started shouting slogans against the ruling party as soon as the federal minister appeared on stage. After this, they fired guns and threw stones at the stage. One stone hit the federal minister on the forehead and he had to have stitches. A policeman was injured by gunfire. An hour later, Mohammad Hanif Khan came back to the same place and addressed the rally. He said the attack was aimed at harming the Kashmiri people's struggle for independence. He said the Pakistan People's Party government cannot be budged from its policies by such cowardly activities.

Minister Rules Out Intervention in Sind Province

BK1404160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Interior Minister Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan says that the federal government has no intention of interfering in the affairs of Sind Province, and that the provincial government is empowered to take any steps necessary to resolve the present situation. Talking to reporters in Islamabad today, he said for the greater national interest no one should hesitate to participate in a dialogue aimed at improving the situation in Karachi. He said everyone has respect and regard for Muhajim Qaumi Movement Chief Mr. Altaf Hussain, and hoped that the movement's leadership will extend cooperation to any initiative taken by the Sind chief minister to bring about normalcy in the city.

On the deployment of the Army in Karachi, the federal minister said that the Army, like any other institution in the country, is subordinate to the Constitution and the government. It is deployed whenever the civil administration feels it is necessary to restore law and order.

Sind Opposition Leader Ends Hunger Strike

Governor To Meet Demands

BK1504003390 Hong Kong AFP in English 2017 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 14 (AFP)—Opposition leader Altaf Hussain called off his 149-hour-old hunger strike Saturday [14 April] after the governor of Pakistan's southern Sind Province agreed to meet his demands.

Governor Fakhruddin Ebrahim made the announcement after three hours of intensive negotiations with the bed-ridden Mr. Hussain, head of the MQM [Muhajim Qaumi Movement], at his residence in this port city.

Hundreds of Mr. Hussain's followers who had joined the hunger strike also called off their action after the announcement.

Mr. Hussain, whose MQM represents Urdu-speaking settlers from India, began his fast last Sunday [8 April] to protest against the alleged role of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in killing and arresting MQM militants.

The governor said the 36-year-old Mr. Hussain broke his fast "on assurance that all criminals responsible for the killings will be apprehended and dealt with according to law."

"The government of Sind is prepared for talks with the MQM unconditionally," said Mr. Fakhruddin, who was recalled from a trip abroad by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to deal with the Sind crisis.

The governor said that he came to negotiate with Mr. Hussain on behalf of the provincial government with the agreement of Ms. Bhutto and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The Sind government is controlled by Ms. Bhutto's ruling PPP, whose relations with the MQM deteriorated sharply after Mr. Hussain decided to join the opposition last October.

The PPP-MQM rivalry escalated following an April 6 attack on PPP youth wing leader Najib Ahmed, who died on Wednesday, prompting a new wave of violence that has claimed some 25 lives in Sind.

Activists from both sides have been engaged in sporadic but bloody street battles since an MQM-called general strike in February.

Further on End of Fast

BK1504063390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Mr. Altaf Hussain ended his hunger strike in Karachi last night. Sind Governor Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim traveled to his residence and held detailed talks with him, after which the MQM leader called off his hunger strike. Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim said that he had gone to Mr. Altaf Hussain's residence in his personal capacity and as governor of Sind, on behalf of the Sind government with the agreement of the president and the prime minister, and he was sure the MQM leader would accept his request and call off the hunger strike.

The governor, in a statement, said that the Sind government will continue to work for law and order and protection of the lives and property of the people in the province. He said all sections of the population will be given justice without any discrimination. All culprits involved in killings will be apprehended and dealt with sternly according to the law.

The governor said the Sind government is ready for talks with the MQM, without any preconditions. Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim thanked Mr. Altaf Hussain for ending the hunger strike and hoped that a new era of peace and understanding would begin.

Later, Mr. Altaf Hussain and the leaders of the Combined Opposition Parties addressed a gathering of people. Islami Jamhoori Ittehad chief Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan told newsmen that the Combined Opposition Parties had given the government until Id al-Fitr [feast at the end of Ramadan, 27 April] to implement its assurances. If the government is unable to do this, the Combined Opposition Parties will then decide its future course of action.

Settlement Pleases President

BK1504161290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] President Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has expressed gratification and satisfaction with the successful negotiations which enabled MQM chief Mr. Altaf Hussain to call off his hunger strike. In a statement issued in Islamabad today, the president said he is happy that discretion was exercised and that a dangerous situation was avoided. He said that this has proved that serious political discussions, with sincerity and the spirit of accomodation, are the most effective means of solving national issues. This is what he has been advocating in different ways on different occasions.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan commended the patriotism and statesmanship of all the leaders of the Combined Opposition Parties, the MQM, and the provincial government. He especially commended the positive roles of Mr. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Governor Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim who were instrumental in reaching the settlement. The president said that they were guided by the supreme national interest and the need to forge unity in national ranks. The president expressed the hope that the agreement announced by the governor will be implemented with the spirit in which it was reached so that all the people living in the province will feel safe, and the life, property, and honor of all the people will be protected, free from discrimination.

Bhutto Makes Minor Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia

BK1604082890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, left Islamabad today for Jeddah to perform umrah [minor pilgrimage]. Some federal ministers and ministers of state, MNA's [members of National Assembly], the chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee; and the naval chief accompanied her. The prime minister, along with her delegation, will visit Mecca al-Mukarramah and Medina al-Munawwarah for the performance of religious rites during her three-day visit.

At the airport, the prime minister was seen off, among others, by federal ministers and the Saudi charge d'affaires.

Large Narcotics Seizure in Sind Reported

BK1704063390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] Karachi, April 15—Under the directives of Sind Minister for Excise and Taxation, Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Excise and Taxation Officer District East Karachi has arrested accused Fareed Gul s/o Ready Gul (late) and seized 8,400 kgs. of high quality charas from his possession which was kept in wooden log near village Safoora KDA [Karachi Development Authority] Scheme No. 36.

Sri Lanka

Justice Minister, LTTE Leader Hold Talks

BK1404121090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of justice and chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee, A.C.S. Hameed, visited Jaffna yesterday and met the leader of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], Prabhakaran, on the instruction of President Premadasa. The meeting lasted three hours. Mr. Hameed and Mr. Prabhakaran discussed important issues now facing the north and east.

Mr. Hameed explained in detail to Mr. Prabhakaran the policies of the president to find a durable solution to the ethnic problem and to ensure the minorities receive a fair deal.

Mr. Prabhakaran told Mr. Hameed that he appreciated greatly the sincere and genuine efforts of the president and that the LTTE would extend the fullest cooperation

to the president's initiatives to achieve a lasting settlement of the ethnic problem and ensure peace and normalcy in all parts of the island.

The political future of the Muslims and the Sinhalese in the north and east were also discussed. It was decided that certain measures should be taken to resolve some of the problems faced by the Muslims. Mr. Prabhakaran told Mr. Hameed that the LTTE was interested in the rehabilitation and reconstruction programs for the north and east. He said he was keen that the development programs be carried out as early as possible and that the LTTE would give all support to ensure that these programs are completed as speedily as possible.

The circumstances under which the two police stations, namely Point Pedro and Velvettiturai, were closed were discussed and it was agreed that the two police stations will be opened within 48 hours.

Associated with Mr. Prabhakaran at the talks were Kuppulasamy Mahendraraja Mahattayas, Anton Balasingham, and Yogaratnam Yogi.